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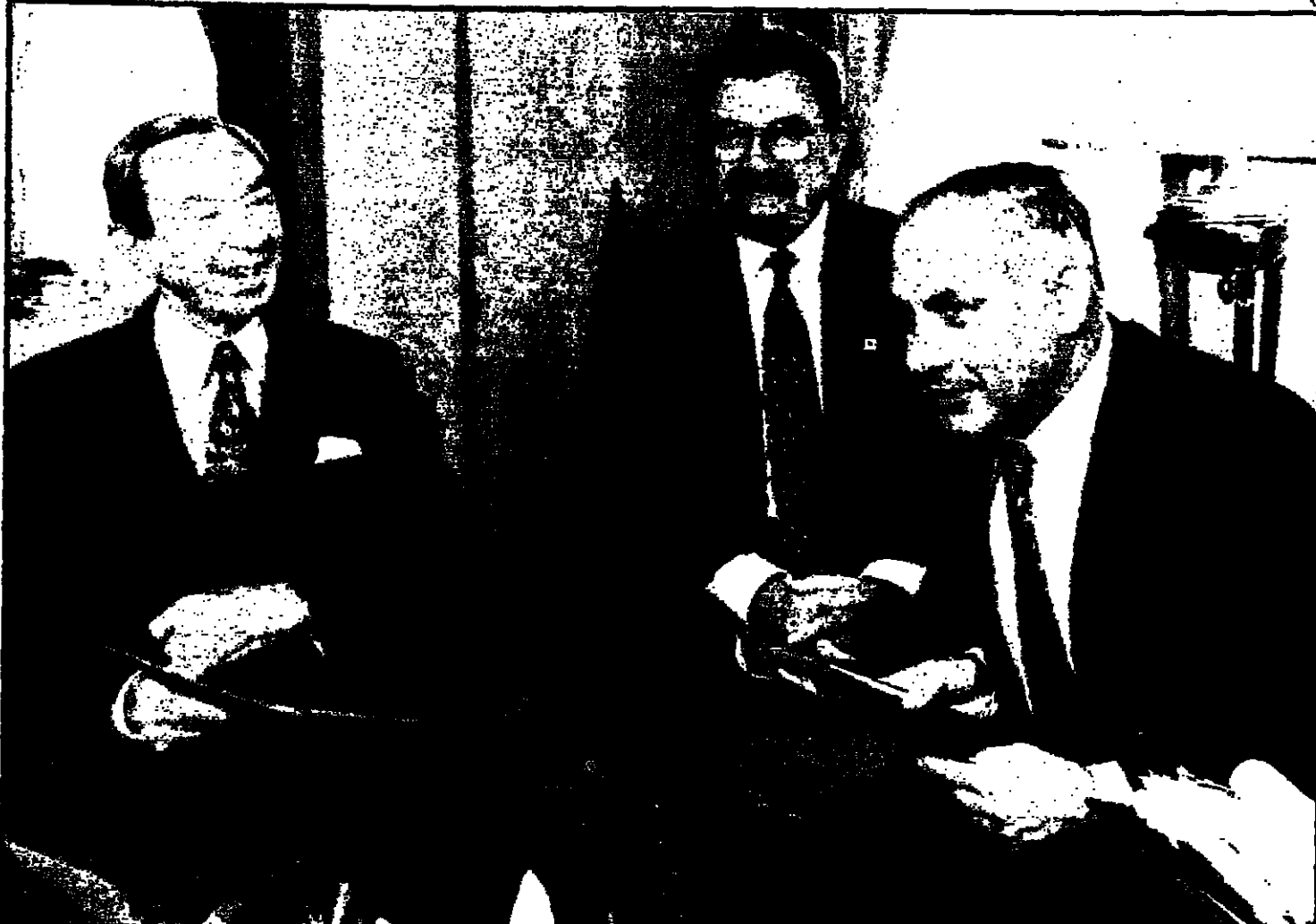
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Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, joined by Ambassador to the US Eliahu Ben-Elissar (center), greets US Secretary of State Warren Christopher before their meeting in Washington yesterday.

PM: I'm unsure Syria wants to talk

HILLEL KUTTLER and Jerusalem Post Staff

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said yesterday that while Israel and the US want negotiations with Syria to resume soon, he is unconvinced that Damascus shares a similar interest.

The issue was to be a central topic at yesterday's White House meeting with President Bill Clinton that began at press time.

Netanyahu told Israeli reporters he has not been pressured by the Americans to resume the Syria talks, and does not expect to be. He also repeated he would not be bound by a time limit in how quickly negotiations with Syria or the Palestinians proceed.

Damascus has stated that talks must be resumed at the point at which they broke off in March following the four suicide bombings. Netanyahu rejects that view.

US officials have stated that due to the upcoming US elections, the talks are unlikely to resume before year's end.

"There are discussions between ourselves and the US, between the US and Syria, and back and forth," Netanyahu said. "We are trying to hold the talks. I'm convinced the US, like us, wants to resume the talks before the elections in November. I can't tell you at this minute that Syria is interested, but if it is, we can certainly find a solution of words. That is not the problem. So the question is really: Is Syria interested? At this minute I can't give you an answer."

He reiterated that the non-paper on security arrangements concluded in earlier negotiations does not obligate his government.

On his way to the US, Netanyahu said there is no reason to make concessions on the Golan as the price for entering talks. He said he would "strive for Israel to retain control over the whole Golan as the outcome of negotiations with Syria."

Following a morning meeting with Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Netanyahu told Israeli reporters that progress in negotiations with the Palestinians depends on their continued adherence to the Oslo Accords in the areas of security and refraining from illegal activities in Jerusalem. "That is the measure of progress," he said.

Netanyahu said the steering committee established by the sides last week will focus first on an "opening package" of issues: redeployment from Hebron, the closure, the Palestinians' airport at Dahaniya, and security matters.

"When they ask us to move ahead on the issue of Hebron, we first of all stand on the principle that the commitments on the other side must be fulfilled on those matters," he said. "An arrangement on Hebron must be one that includes enough security for the Jewish community that it can live as normally as possible, with greater security than the agreement as written provides."

Barak announces bid for Labor leadership

SARAH HONIG

MK Ehud Barak formally announced yesterday that he will seek the Labor Party leadership and its nomination for prime minister - even if Shimon Peres does not step down.

In a press conference in Tel Aviv, Barak made it clear that he is "in the running - period. I am running in any case, no matter what the circumstances. This is my decision and it has nothing to do with whoever else runs."

Peres, who is now in the US, told Channel 2 in irate tones that

"if that's what Barak wants to do, it's his right... I will announce my intentions when I see fit, and no one was authorized to do so in my name."

Peres was alluding to earlier reports that he had given Barak assurances that he would not run again for prime minister in 2000.

Haim Ramon maintained a strict silence yesterday.

Peres, Barak noted, had stressed to him that the party rules mandate

a leadership contest next June, and "I therefore am going on the record now as saying that I will be a candidate at that time, regardless of whoever else runs."

There has been discussion in the party, especially in the Peres and Ramon circles, that the best time for the showdown would be 1999.

Peres was also reportedly seriously considering staying on as leader for as long as possible and

perhaps even running again. Party sources, however, said that it is unlikely that he could defeat Barak.

Barak said he hoped his announcement would "not drive a wedge between Shimon and me, because the real foe is no one in Labor but [Prime Minister Binyamin] Netanyahu."

(Continued on Page 2)

Mordechai appoints ex-general to revamp Nahal

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

MAJ.-GEN. (res.) Amos Yaron, whose military career was curtailed following the 1982 Sabra and Shatila massacre and who ended his service as military attaché in Washington, has been appointed by the Defense Ministry to come up with ideas on how to stop the drop in motivation.

Technically, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai has directed Yaron to work with the branch responsible for youth education, Nahal, and Gadna. His primary tasks will be to map out actions to spotlight national values, to increase identification with the IDF, and to create a higher readiness among youths before they are drafted.

Yaron's committee is also to examine how it can instill a willingness to volunteer for "national goals," with an emphasis on settlement in outlying areas and development towns, helping immigrants, and education, a Defense Ministry statement said.

Among Yaron's tasks will also be to come up with a plan to bolster the Nahal. The number of *gavanim*, groups of youth movement members serving together, has dwindled to a point where a majority of Nahal troops do not come from a *gavin*.

At the end of his work, Yaron is submit his recommendations to Mordechai.

The commission which investigated the massacre of hundreds of Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camp by Christian Phalangists found Yaron partly responsible for not curbing the militiamen. It was recommended he not be given another field command. He was later named OC Manpower.

Poll: Decline in army motivation starts at home

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

THE drop in motivation to serve in the army mirrors the attitudes youths receive from home, indicating that the trend reflects society as a whole and not just 18-year-olds, according to a recent Bar-Ilan University poll.

The poll also showed that while religious families generally instill a greater motivation to volunteer for elite combat units than secular parents, there are signs this is also dropping, said Dr. Ya'acov Katz, director of the Institute for Community Research at the university's School of Education.

Katz has monitored Israeli youth for the past 10 years, and was one of the first to publish a poll last April which showed a decline in motivation among both secular and religious youth. Following up on that poll, Katz queried their parents and discovered similar, and in some instances more serious results.

The poll, conducted last May and June, interviewed 343 parents of soon-to-be-drafted high schoolers in the state school system and 108 in the state religious school system, Katz said. It had a 4 percent margin of error.

According to the poll, 69% of the first set of parents said they were interested in their son serving in the army, but only 26% said they wanted to see him in a combat unit. In the previous poll, 76% of their sons expressed interest in serving, and 34% wanted to volunteer for a combat unit.

(Continued on Page 2)

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Israel-PA talks resume

Subcommittees to meet, no progress on Hebron issue

JON IMMANUEL

THE Israeli-Palestinian Steering Committee met in Jericho yesterday for the first time since the elections and agreed to renew the work of its civil, economic and security subcommittees.

No progress was made on a timetable for redeployment in Hebron which Palestinian steering committee head Saeb Erekat said is not open to negotiation. But Israeli team leader Dan Shomron said the fact that Hebron is on the agenda means it is being negotiated.

"We hope we can continue the peace process ... by allowing all Palestinians and Israelis to see implementation on the ground," said Erekat.

"It's a fact that we agreed to talk about Hebron... The basis is the agreement but there are still problems there for which we are seeking a solution agreed to by both sides," said Shomron.

In a recorded interview on Channel 1's *Popolitika* program last night, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he was seeking "changes in the implementation" of the agreement "to give the Jewish settlement in Hebron a normal life, as secure as possible."

Netanyahu asserted that the US and Israel coordinated positions, apparently alluding to modifications on the redeployment of

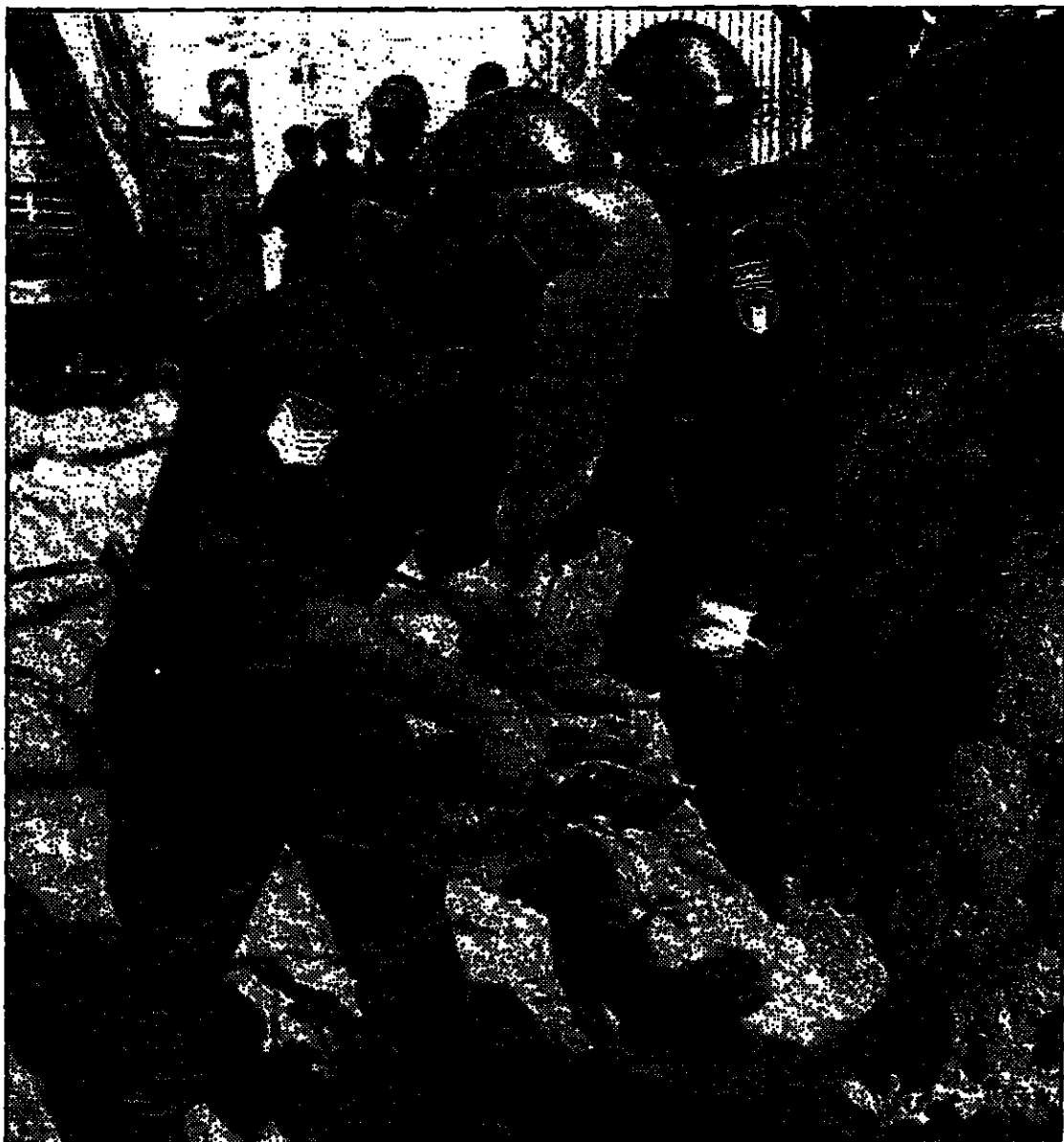
Hebron. He said that US pressure was being placed on the Palestinians to modify their stance.

The talks are to continue next month, but no firm date was fixed. A meeting next week between Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat will also deal with these issues as well as prisoner releases, the security arrangements at Gaza's proposed airport, safe passages and easing of the closure.

The Palestinians also wanted the steering committee to talk about further redeployment of the IDF from area C, which was to have been carried out in three stages over 12 months starting three days ago according to the Oslo 2 timetable.

"They didn't want to open this matter," said Hassan Asfour, an Oslo negotiator who attended yesterday's meeting. "We feel the Israelis look at area C as an Israeli area." Asfour said the Palestinians also raised settlements and Jerusalem.

The third member of the Palestinian delegation was Jamil Tarif, the PA Minister for Civil Affairs. Shomron was accompanied by Government Coordinator in the Territories Maj.-Gen. Oren Shabar, and Brig.-Gen. David Agmon.



Palestinian policemen search for wiretapping equipment under the road they dug up in front of police headquarters in Gaza City yesterday.

PA police search for listening devices

JON IMMANUEL

PALESTINIAN police closed off part of a Gaza City street yesterday to search for listening devices, after one exploded last week when a sapper tried to dismantle it from a telephone pole.

The sapper, Tawfik Waji, died in the hospital and another policeman was wounded.

The explosion occurred near Palestinian Police headquarters on

Omar Mukhtar Street. The object was identified as a listening device primed to self-destruct and it was assumed that it and others were placed on the telephone lines by the IDF before Gaza was handed over to Palestinian rule in May 1994.

The Palestinian Police is requesting Israeli assistance in locating

other listening devices and considering the devices a breach of trust.

Meanwhile, Palestinian and Israeli intelligence services are still cooperating. On Sunday, Palestinian police in Beit Jalla near Bethlehem stopped a car carrying two wanted Islamic Jihad escapees from an Israeli jail, capturing one while the other escaped again. Army Radio said.

Hizbullah makes comeback in Lebanon election

BEIRUT (Reuters) - Hizbullah has made a political comeback in the fourth round of Lebanon's general election, winning the four seats it contested after losing two in earlier rounds of voting.

Hizbullah's candidates won in south Lebanon under a Syrian-sponsored alliance with the secular, Shi'ite, Muslim movement Amal, which also won five seats in the 128-member house, according to partial results issued yesterday.

Final results are expected today, officials said. The joint ticket, forged at the last minute under Syrian mediation, swept all 23 southern seats in parliament. It included four government ministers and Bahia Hariri, sister of Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

Well-known opposition candidates like Elias Abou Rizk, outspoken head of Lebanon's labor confederation, and Marxist deputy Habib Saadeh, lost despite winning a lot of votes.

Despite the success of the joint ticket, political analysts doubted the Hizbullah-Amal deal would translate into an alliance in the new parliament. The two groups are rivals for leadership of Lebanon's 1.3 million Shi'ite Muslim community and fought a sporadic war in the late 1980s.

"Agreements made now are not going to hold. Things will get back to normal in a few weeks time and

when the chips are down they will go their separate ways," an analyst said.

That also applied to an election alliance between Hariri and Nabih Berri, the Amal chief and speaker of parliament who won re-election on Sunday, the analyst said.

Hariri and Berri fought non-stop for supremacy in the previous parliament but have united during the election to keep opposition figures out of the new parliament.

However, Hizbullah's success ended speculation that Syria, which has 35,000 troops in Lebanon and a powerful say in its affairs, had decided it was time to cut the fundamentalist movement down to size and reduce its strength in parliament.

Sharp attacks on Hizbullah during the campaign by Hariri had raised expectations that Syria wanted to curb the group. Hariri said the election was a contest between moderates and extremists and criticized Hizbullah's policies and aims.

The speculation intensified when candidates of the pro-Syrian government defeated two Hizbullah deputies who ran for re-election in Mount Lebanon and Beirut.

Beirut newspapers then said Syria appeared to be sending a message to the United States and Israel that it was able to rein in Hizbullah.

Israel, Jordan to open consulates in Akaba and Eilat

HAIM SHAPIRO

AMMAN

JORDAN and Israel are to open consulates in Eilat and Akaba, Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav and Jordanian Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, Saleh Ruseidat agreed here yesterday.

Ruseidat said the difficultly which Jordanians have in obtaining visas to visit Israel. He said that every day there are long lines of would-be visitors waiting to submit visa applications.

Katsav said that Israel is trying to ease the situation, but that Jordan is also familiar with the issue of security.

Regarding the problem of terror, Ruseidat noted that "whatever happens in Israel or Egypt affects the entire region."

Jordanian tourist sources said that tourism from the West dropped in March, following the bus bombings in Israel.

According to Israel's Tourism Ministry, since the borders were opened in October 1994, about 130,000 Jordanians have visited, and about 200,000 Israelis have visited Jordan.

MOTIVATION

(Continued from Page 1)

Among religious families, more than 85% were interested in their sons serving in the army and 42% wanted them in combat units. These results virtually mirrored a survey among religious youth polled earlier.

"We can identify the fact that children are no different than their parents," Katz said, adding that "a general societal motivation problem exists toward army service that isn't just focused in the educational system, but rather in societal norms encompassing both parents and children alike."

"Twenty years ago, it would have been difficult to get any parent to openly admit they were apprehensive, now a third say it. This trend exists throughout society, but the motivation of religious families is also wanting. It is in general a more conservative trend. It takes longer, because they still have some of the old patriotic feelings and values of devotion. But they are not immune either," Katz said.

"I don't think the religious leadership should smugly say, 'This is bypassing us.' They are just as vulnerable. For the present ... they feel more for public values than the secular do. But if they don't shore it up, it can degenerate."

In a meeting with military reporters last week, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said he was putting the issue of motivation high on his agenda.

"We have to protect the IDF," Mordechai said. "This erosion in the national motivation is dangerous. We not only reduce the national ability to defend ourselves, but we are sending a message of weakness to our neighbors."

This evening, a grass-roots group of reserve brigade and battalion commanders is to hold its first public meeting to combat the waning image of the IDF, and particularly look for ways to increase motivation among reservists. The meeting comes amid reports of increasing shirking of reserve duty to the point that the number of soldiers getting out of the reservist pool is higher than those going in.

BARAK

(Continued from Page 1)

MK Yossi Beilin, one of Peres's closest allies, said that "it may have been in bad taste for this sort of announcement to be made when Peres is abroad."

Peres said Barak told him of his impending announcement as he was on his way to the airport Sunday.

Beilin argued that "the object is to find the best candidate to defeat Netanyahu, and who the best man is will not be readily apparent prior to 1999."

Another Peres ally, MK Dalia Itzik, argued that what Barak did "constituted at least a lack of good manners, because it was done when Peres was out of the country. It was a clear anti-Peres challenge, and Barak's cronies

have been phoning Peres and urging him to step down."

MK Binjamin Ben-Eliezer, who described himself as "one of the leaders of the Barak camp in Labor," said he had "pushed Barak to make the announcement now and not to wait."

"True, the announcement will cause a crisis in the party, but it will do so whenever it is made, so it is better to seize an early momentum. Once Barak is a candidate, no move in the party can be made without him."

MK Ephraim Sneh has already thrown his hat in the ring. Ramon is expected to do so, and MK Uzi Barak may also enter the fray.

Barak reported that Meretz leader MK Yossi Sarid told him he may run for prime minister.

UNSURE

(Continued from Page 1)

He said Israel has a "suitcase" full of demands on security matters, including the PA's releasing "terrorists who attacked Israelis" and not arresting others.

Netanyahu also stated that he has not heard any direct indication from Egypt that it would cancel November's regional economic summit, but that Israel's talks with the Palestinians would not be dictated by repeated threats.

"I want to tell you something: Either Egypt has an interest in this conference, or it doesn't. If it does, and I think it does, then it'll hold it. If it doesn't, it's their choice," Netanyahu said. "We aren't standing with a stopwatch in hand; we're not trying to speed up or slow down the process. We're moving ahead according to our understanding of our own interests - and security is the foundation of our interest."

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Asked about MK Ehud Barak's decision to run for Labor Party head, Netanyahu said he would not get involved in other countries' or other parties' races.

Netanyahu and Christopher also discussed Iraq, with the prime minister pointing out that only Great Britain and Israel "stood clearly and unreservedly" by the US over last week's operations.

He said this reflects the close US ties with both countries, and called criticism of the US actions "irresponsible."

Marilyn Henry adds: Netanyahu will journey out to a Queens, New York cemetery today to visit the grave of Lubavitcher Rebbe Menachem Mendel Schneerson, then appear at a fund-raising dinner for the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cancer Association chief to head world body
Prof. Eliezer Robinson, chairman of the Israel Cancer Association, has been elected president of the UICC, the world roof body of national organizations that fight cancer.
The UICC, which is meeting in Oslo, represents 250 cancer associations in 80 countries and is based in Geneva. Robinson retired from his job as director of the oncology center at Rambam Hospital in June, and is chairman of the Israel Oncology Association and the National Oncology Council. Judy Siegel

Wakf, city hall lock horns over Mount

Illegal renovations press on

BILL HUTMAN

THE Jerusalem Municipality and the Wakf Moslem religious authority appear headed for a showdown over renovations being carried out on the Temple Mount without a city building permit and in violation of a court order.

The court order, obtained last week by the municipality after building inspectors discovered the Wakf was carrying out renovations in the southwest corner of the mount, calls for work to be halted. The Wakf, however, is ignoring the order.

"They have 30 days (from the day the order was issued) to appeal to the court," a senior municipal official told *The Jerusalem Post*. "We plan to keep a close watch on what they are doing, and then will decide how to proceed," the official said.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert raised the matter with Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani and Jerusalem police chief Arye Amit on Sunday. Amit expressed concern city action on the Temple Mount would spark unrest among Palestinians, police sources said.

"Unfortunately the municipality and other people are mishandling a very sensitive situation," said Wakf Director Adnan Hussein. "We are not adding roofs, or pillars, or anything like that. All we are doing is putting

in new tiles so that people will have a comfortable place to pray." The site in question is known to Israelis as Solomon's Stables, an area adjoining Al-Aksa Mosque, which was used as stables by the Crusaders. Moslems refer to the site as Al-Marwani Mosque, originally built in the seventh century.

"Last Ramadan came in February, and it was raining, and the absence of tiles made it difficult for people to pray at Al-Marwani," Hussein said. "We want to make the improvements before next Ramadan, which is supposed to fall in January," Hussein, in a telephone interview, described the action being taken by the city as "an exaggeration" and "a provocation," adding that the Wakf had understandings with Israeli government since 1967 that it did not need permits to carry out repair work.

"This is our area. No law can stop us from doing this," Hussein said. He said the Wakf would not appeal against the court order obtained by the municipality.

Asked about fear of unrest if the city or police enter the Temple Mount to halt work, Hussein said he preferred not to comment, but then added, "If they want to create problems, then they will also be responsible for how people will react."

Saudi Arabians to bankroll \$2m. renovation of Arab homes in Old City

BILL HUTMAN

SAUDI Arabia this week informed Palestinian officials in Jerusalem that it would fund a \$2 million project to renovate Palestinian homes in the Old City, "in order to ensure the Old City's Arab character," according to officials at Orient House, the PLO headquarters in Jerusalem.

Some 64 homes will be renovated under the project, being carried out through the Islamic Development Bank of Jeddah, together with Orient House officials, the officials said.

On Sunday, a bank delegation headed by Abdel Matrib Rafiq met with Faisal Hussein, the senior PLO official in Jerusalem, at Orient House, to work out the final details of the project, with work expected to begin soon.

Hussein has been encouraging contributions and investments in eastern Jerusalem by Arab states for some time, on grounds that the Arab world must act to counter Israeli development in the city.

The \$2m. contribution is one of the largest obtained by Hussein to date. A committee of local Palestinian leaders is to be set up to oversee the project, according to the officials.

Jordan Valley leaders laud Sharon's plans

EVELYN GORDON

INFRASTRUCTURE Minister Ariel Sharon unveiled several ideas for the development of the Jordan Valley yesterday, delighting leaders of the valley's communities.

At a meeting with the heads of the Jordan Valley settlements, Sharon promised to allocate NIS 30 million next year to improving the valley's main highway, Route 90. This is on top of the NIS 10m. promised last week by Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy.

Sharon also promised to devote funds to upgrading the area's other main north-south route - the Allon Road (Route 80) - though he did not specify how much he would invest in this project or what kind of timetable he had in mind.

Tami Atiya, spokeswoman for the Jordan Valley Settlements Committee, said Sharon also expressed support for the idea of extending an existing water pipeline from Lake Kinneret to Beit She'an through the rest of the Jordan Valley. Again, he made no promises regarding funding or timetables, but community leaders received the impression that he was serious about advancing the project, she said.

Finally, he told them that he favored adding an extra 400 families to existing settlements in the region immediately, and that further down the road, he would like to see two additional valley settlements turned into municipal centers. Currently, Ma'aleh Efrain is the valley's only urban settlement. However, Sharon suggested that two other settlements - Rotem and Kochav Hashahar - also be devel-

oped as urban centers. He also promised to help with the additional infrastructure this would require, Atiya said.

Atiya described the meeting as a pleasant contrast to community leaders' meeting last week with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, which, she said, left them "quite disappointed."

The big difference, she said, was that Sharon had done his homework. Mordechai came to the meeting without knowing anything about any of the issues of concern to the residents, and his response to every suggestion they made was that he would have to study it, she said. In contrast, she said, Sharon requested an agenda for the meeting in advance, had his staff research the issues, and came to the meeting with concrete proposals.

Community leaders said they were also pleased with the results of a meeting with Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav Sunday night. At this meeting, Katsav promised NIS 6m. for two tourism projects in the valley and agreed that his ministry would help in the planning of a third. Katsav also promised to discuss the idea of opening the Allenby Bridge to tourist traffic with his Jordanian counterpart.

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Funeral arrangements to be announced

We grieve with Joan, her daughters and family on the untimely death of

PROF. ZALLY RUBINSTEIN

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Mourning by Aubrey, Stella, Dan, Peter, Giddy, Tammy and all the Joffe family

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HENRI SAMUEL

and extends heartfelt sympathy to Les Amis Français du Musée d'Israël à Jérusalem of which he was Honorary President

USA

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Clinton seeks over \$1 billion to fight terrorism

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Bill Clinton called on Congress yesterday to provide more than \$1 billion to hire more Federal Bureau of Investigation agents to fight terrorism and to improve US airline security in general.

"Terrorists don't wait and neither should we," Clinton told reporters at a White House ceremony where he received a report on enhancing airport security and urged Congress to act before it adjourns in October.

He had asked for the report after the July 17 crash of TWA Flight 800, which exploded over the Atlantic Ocean off New York, killing all 230 people on board. Although the cause of the Flight 800 disaster has yet to be determined, Americans' concern about terrorism has increased following the crash and a pipe-bombing at the Atlanta Summer Olympics games.

Vice President Al Gore, who chaired the group that wrote the report, announced its key points last week. These included a call for better bomb detection equipment, profiling of passengers, matching passengers to their baggage, increased use of bomb-sniffing dogs and running background checks on employees with access to secure airport areas.

While endorsing all these and announcing executive action to implement several of them, Clinton said he wanted Congress to provide money to go beyond the narrow

issue of airline security and fight terrorism more broadly at home and abroad.

"Shortly I will submit to Congress a budget request for more than \$1 billion to expand our FBI anti-terrorism forces and to put the most sophisticated bomb detection machines in America's airports," he said.

"In addition to improving security in airports and airplanes... we want to use these funds to keep advancing the other two parts of our strategy: combating terrorists beyond our borders and here at home. We must tighten protection at a number of high-profile public sites including government buildings, national landmarks and national parks."

Clinton said he would direct that all airport and airline employees with access to secure areas be subjected to criminal background and FBI fingerprint checks. He also said he would require matching all passengers to their bags and increased use of bomb-sniffing dogs at certain airports.

"As a result of these steps, not only will the American people feel... safer, they will be safer," he added.

Responding to criticism of the handling of the TWA crash, Clinton also said he would order more accurate and detailed passenger manifests to be kept for international flights.

Developers display plans for Europe's tallest building

LONDON (AP) - Developers revealed plans yesterday for what they said would be the world's third tallest building, a 1,265-foot (385-meter) tower of glass to be constructed in the City business district to mark the millennium.

The £400 million (\$600 million) London Millennium Tower, a curvy-walled edifice designed by leading British architect Sir Norman Foster, also will be the tallest building in Europe.

At a news conference, Foster fobbed off criticism that such a monster would be out of keeping with London's traditionally low-rise skyline and spoil views of historical buildings nearby, including St. Paul's Cathedral.

"All buildings are expressions of the energy and aspirations of world class modern cities," he said. "The London Millennium Tower will be a statement of confidence in the City for the next century."

Alan Winter, managing director of developers Trafalgar House Property, said although some planning problems still have to be resolved, the company hopes the 92-story building will be under construction by the year 2000.

Built on the site of the City's Baltic Exchange, which was badly damaged by an Irish Republican Army bomb in 1992, it will have more than 1.5 million square feet (0.13 million square meters) of space for offices, shops, restaurants and some 40 private apartments.

The tower will also be able to accommodate some 8,000 people, Trafalgar House said.

A public viewing gallery will run beneath a vast glass atrium 1,000 feet (304 meters) up, offering spectacular views of nearby St. Paul's Cathedral, the Houses of Parliament and beyond.

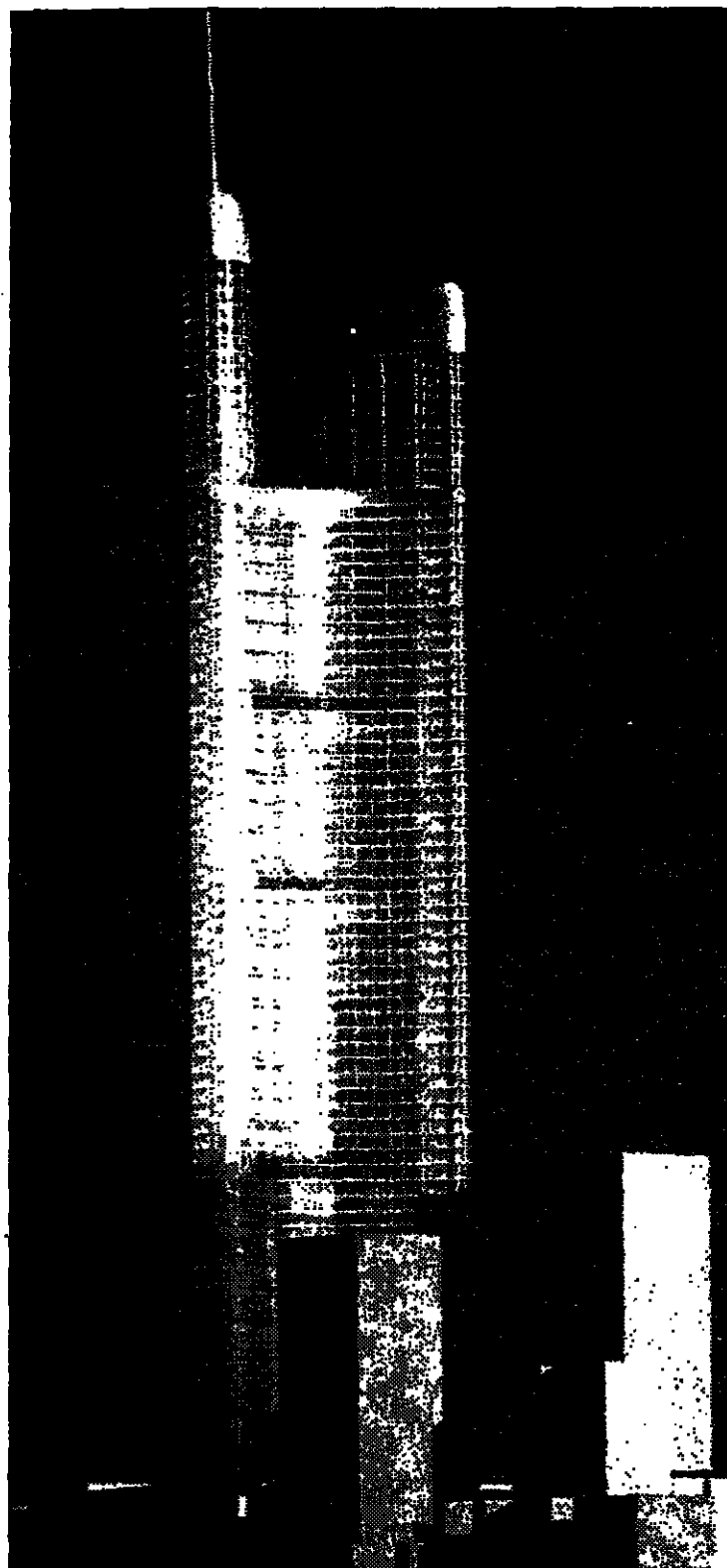
Visitors will reach the gallery in outside glass elevators running up the front of the building. The plans also include a series of "gardens in the sky" that will hang between the building's floors.

Winter told reporters the company is confident of finding tenants.

"There is a continuing requirement in London for large new high quality office buildings," he said.

But the conservation group English Heritage, which will advise city planners on whether to approve the construction, expressed doubts about its size.

"It's the height which troubles us and the effect it would have on the London skyline, on views of St. Paul's, and on the build-



A graphic impression of the proposed new London Millennium Tower, unveiled yesterday by its architect, Norman Foster. When completed, the tower will be the tallest in Europe.

ings and streets around it, particularly if there are 8,000 people working there," said a spokeswoman, speaking with customary anonymity. "We're extremely skeptical." Trafalgar House said if built, Millennium Tower will be shorter only than the Petronas Towers in the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur, and Chicago's Sears

Ulster talks resume but hit new obstacle

MARTIN COWLEY BELFAST

PEACE talks on Northern Ireland hit a new stumbling block yesterday but their chairman, former US senator George Mitchell, vowed to continue his efforts.

Hardline pro-British leader Ian Paisley demanded expulsion of two parties linked to so-called "Loyalist" guerrillas, throwing a new cloud over negotiations that Britain and Ireland say offer the region its best prospects of peace for decades.

A decision on the two parties, which, like Paisley, favor a continued British presence in Northern Ireland, was put on hold when Mitchell adjourned plenary negotiations until tomorrow.

Paisley is concerned their continued presence could pave the way for Sinn Fein, political wing of the IRA guerrilla group which resumed a fight against British rule in February after a 17 month truce, to take part in the talks.

Sinn Fein have been refused seats at the talks until the IRA renews its cease-fire.

In line with agreed procedures, Mitchell gave the parties and the British and Irish governments time to consider Paisley's complaint.

Heading into the opening session after a one-month summer recess, Mitchell dismissed rumors that he was considering resigning as chairman.

"No, that is completely untrue," he told reporters when asked

about reports that he would pull out of the talks unless progress is made on how to disarm Irish Catholic and pro-British Protestant guerrilla groups.

The talks have failed to tackle a single substantive issue since they began in June and have turned into a replay of the Protestant-Catholic rivalry at the root of the conflict.

Mitchell said he was happy to be back and stressed his commitment to the talks, aimed at ending communal distrust after a 25-year guerrilla war which killed more than 3,000 people.

"When I accepted the invitation of the [British and Irish] to participate in these talks, I accepted enthusiastically because I believed the talks represent an historic opportunity for the people of Northern Ireland. That is still my view," Mitchell said in a statement.

Paisley handed Mitchell what the cleric-politician termed as "an indictment" of the smaller Ulster Democratic Party (UDP) and the Progressive Unionist Party (PUP), the political wings of the banned Ulster Defense Association and Ulster Volunteer Force.

Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), was angry because the parties have failed to condemn a threat by pro-British guerrillas to kill convicted Protestant activist Billy Wright, who opposes their participation in the talks. (Reuters)

TWA 800 recovery effort back to full speed

SHINNECOCK, New York (AP) - Four cargo nets of wreckage from TWA Flight 800 were brought to shore as the recovery effort returned to full speed for the first time in more than a week.

"It was a good day," Navy spokesman Lt. Nicholas Balice said after divers and a giant underwater robot recovered more pieces of the downed jet on Sunday. "We're back in full operation."

Stormy seas stirred up by back-to-back hurricanes calmed three days earlier than expected, allowing the search to resume.

Scuba divers wearing oxygen tanks and Navy divers who receive oxygen from the surface worked in a 400-square-meter area of wreckage where most of the Boeing 747 landed after exploding in the sky on July 17, Balice said.

The explosion killed all 230 aboard the Paris-bound jet which blew apart 16 kms from shore. Authorities still need more clues to determine whether the plane was downed by a

bomb, a missile or an unprecedented mechanical malfunction.

Narrowing the cause depends much on retrieving the remaining 30 percent of the plane still believed to be resting on the ocean floor.

Balice said divers searching in the wreckage field 33 meters beneath the surface of the Atlantic Ocean could see about 1.2-1.5 meters in front of them Sunday. That was much improved from Thursday, when National Transportation Safety Board Vice Chairman Robert Francis said the visibility was less than 10 cms.

It was the first full day of salvage work since Hurricane Edouard headed north the area. It veered off without making major landfall, but kicked up heavy seas. Next came Fran, which hit much of the US East Coast with large surf.

The arrival of new wreckage was eagerly awaited at an aircraft hangar where the plane is being reassembled. Engineers are looking for patterns of damage that might help explain the crash.

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European human rights court agrees to hear boy's case against parental beatings

STRASBOURG, France (AP) - Europe's human rights court agreed yesterday to hear a case against the British government filed by a 12-year-old boy who claims authorities failed to protect him from disciplinary beatings by his parents.

A ruling against the government could force Britain and other European nations to outlaw corporal punishment of children.

The decision to hear the case, reached after preliminary arguments at the European Court of Human Rights, kicks off a complex legal process that could take more than a year to reach a final judgment.

But the decision was bound immediately to agitate members of Britain's governing Conservative party who believe the court has too much power to meddle in the country's internal affairs.

"This is a landmark decision for children, the first step towards confirming that children have the same rights as adults to protection from violence," said

Peter Newell, coordinator for a British organization called End Physical Punishment of Children.

More traditionalist groups were disappointed. "We defend families' right to discipline their children the way they feel is best," said Cornelia Oddie, spokeswoman in Britain for Family and Youth Concern, a pressure group that promotes family welfare.

"Any attempt to prevent parents from smacking their children would be legalizing state interference," she said.

The human rights court, an arm of the Council of Europe, was set up in 1950 to hear complaints brought by citizens of council nations about suspected civil rights abuses.

The court's rulings are binding on governments and can force changes in national law. A judgment against Britain could also affect others among the 39 council nations since they too would be open to suits brought by victims of corporal punishment.

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Iraqi Kurds capture dam, ready to oust rival

KURT SCHORK
DUKAN, Iraq

AN Iraqi Kurdish militia backed by Baghdad captured a hydro-electric dam yesterday and prepared to oust its longtime rival faction from northern Iraq as thousands of refugees poured towards the border with Iran.

Guerrillas of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), aligned with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, took Dukan dam after four hours of heavy fighting with the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) along a 70-km stretch of road.

KDP fighters jammed the town of Dukan. The engineer of the dam built by the British in 1958 over the Lesser Zab river said much of northern Iraq was without power because the PUK had run off with computer cards essential to running the generators.

"When I accepted the terms of the British and British to participate in these talks, I participated enthusiastically because I believe the talks represent an opportunity for the people of northern Iraq. That is a new," Mitchell said in a statement.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said he was "pleased" to hear of the KDP's victory over the PUK. He said the KDP's victory was a "positive step" towards the resolution of the conflict in northern Iraq.

A UN official said PUK administrators fled Sulaimaniya, the faction's last stronghold 70 km from the dam, ahead of an expected assault by the KDP, the main power in the north-west which began overrunning PUK-held areas nine days ago.

A UN official said PUK administrators poured out of Sulaimaniya as forces of the KDP overran five key points on the route to the dam, one a hill where only the day before the PUK said its commander Jalal Talabani had visited the battlefield.

"They're running because they're frightened," KDP Captain Sami Jabbar said of the PUK fighters while he and his men advanced in a convoy of cars, buses and pickup trucks mounted with heavy machineguns near Kani Osman



Iraqi Kurds sit atop a trailer pulled by a tractor as they flee from the northern Iraqi Kurdish town of Dukan this week before the town was captured yesterday by Kurdish militia loyal to Massoud Barzani's Kurdish Democratic Party.

collapse and appealed to Washington to help it against the KDP.

Sulaimaniya is the biggest city of Iraqi Kurdistan with a population of around a million and a manufacturing center. The PUK says several hundred people were killed in its suburbs when Saddam's helicopter gunships and tanks attacked in 1991.

A UN refugee official in Geneva said 8,000 to 10,000 people were reported to have fled Sulaimaniya earlier yesterday. "That number may have gone up dramatically by now," he told CNN.

UN officials said Iraq was bracing for a vast wave of refugees. Massoud Barzani, the KDP

Ex-foes Croatia, Yugoslavia formalize relations

ZAGREB (Reuters) - Croatia and Yugoslavia established full diplomatic relations yesterday, officially sealing normal ties between the two countries locked in conflict five years ago, the Croatian Foreign Ministry said.

But Zagreb also stepped up pressure to regain eastern Slavonia, the last piece of its territory still controlled by rebel Serbs, saying President Franjo Tudjman planned to enter the devastated Serb-held town of Vukovar in April next year.

Croatia and Yugoslavia, which now comprises only Serbia and Montenegro, recognized each other on August 23 in a deal which called for diplomatic relations to be established within 15 days.

The head of the Yugoslav representative office in Zagreb, Veljko Knezevic, handed a diplomatic note to Croatian Deputy Foreign Minister Ivan Simonovic establishing full diplomatic and consular relations, the foreign ministry said in a statement.

In Belgrade, the head of the Croatian representative office Zvonimir Markovic handed a similar note to Yugoslav Deputy Foreign Minister Radoslav Bulajic.

Relations between the two have been gradually thawing for several months. Under the exchange of notes, the two representative offices in Zagreb and Belgrade are upgraded to embassies and the countries will exchange ambassadors.

Zagreb declared independence from Yugoslavia in 1991 and fought a war with the Serb-dominated federal army plus Croatian Serbs opposing independence.

Simonovic told the Croatian news agency HINA that the exchange of notes marked "the completion of the political, diplomatic and legal procedure of mutual recognition of the two states within their international borders." He also said it should help resolve the eastern Slavonia question.

Eastern Slavonia is due to return to Zagreb's control next year after a transitional period under United Nations administration. Croatian forces regained two other rebel Serb-held enclaves in 1995 by force.

Tudjman said in August he was willing to extend the mandate of the UN Transitional Administration of Eastern Slavonia (UNTAES), which expires on January 15, by three months.

Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic, who is visiting Ukraine, also mentioned the possibility yesterday that UN forces could be allowed a further three months to withdraw.

Chernomyrdin, Lebed discuss Chechnya; pullout resumes

GROZNY, Russia (AP) - Russia's prime minister met security chief Alexander Lebed yesterday to discuss the peace process in breakaway Chechnya, while Russian troops continued to pull out of the war-torn republic.

Despite the breakthrough peace deal with Chechen rebels that Lebed negotiated last month, the 21-month war persists in scattered clashes across the battered, mountainous republic.

One Russian serviceman was killed early yesterday when rebels attacked his unit at a train station in the village of Chervlyomayya-Uzlovaya, the Interfax news agency quoted the Russian military command as saying.

And separatists blocked a Russian convoy leaving Grozny yesterday, causing an hours-long standoff. The rebels had accused the Russians of looting, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported.

In Moscow, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Lebed talked about plans for Chechnya, especially the creation of a coalition government - an important element of Lebed's peace process - said Lebed's press service. It did not give details.

Since President Boris Yeltsin appointed the security chief to resolve the Chechen conflict last month, Lebed has come under criticism from several fronts, including from Chernomyrdin.

In an interview with Japan's NHK television network broadcast yesterday, Lebed shot back at Chernomyrdin for initially doubting the validity of his peace plan.

"Experts all say the agreement is legitimate. I'm not interested in mere chattering," Lebed said.

In Chechnya, Russian and Chechen commanders were scheduled to meet yesterday to work out details of the peace deal reached by Lebed and top separatist commander Aslan Maskhadov, but the meeting was postponed for unspecified "technical reasons."

While several previous pacts have collapsed, the latest accord seems to offer the best chance at peace. Fighting has virtually stopped in recent weeks. The peace deal delays the key decision of Chechnya's status within Russia for five years.

Yeltsin endorsed the plan last week - except for provisions for the rapid pullout of Russian troops.

Russian officials have said the withdrawal's first stage will involve 4,500 army servicemen and an unspecified number of interior ministry troops. Yeltsin's reservations have left it unclear when the Russian pullout will be completed.

Liberia aid workers: Thousands of children starved

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) - Aid workers yesterday fed thousands of starving children who have been trapped without food in the Liberian countryside for seven months.

The feedings were carried out after relief officials reached the city of Tubmanburg, about 80 kilometers north of the capital Monrovia, for the first time since February. The city has been cut off by clashes among rival militia groups.

"The people have been prisoners of the town," said Nicolas Detorrements of the French relief agency Doctors Without Borders. "They haven't been able to get out to forage for food because of the fighting."

He said about 100 of the most serious cases were taken to hospitals in Monrovia.

Meanwhile, one of the leading rebel factions has demobilized 1,500 of its fighters in northern Liberia, vowing total disarmament by the end of the month.

"We are not soldiers by profession," Alhaji Kromah, leader of the Ulimo-K rebel faction, said in a prepared statement read to troops at headquarters in Voinjama on the northern border with Guinea.

"We took up arms a few years back out of frustration to emancipate ourselves and our people, and we feel that this aim has been accomplished."

ANC officials blame apartheid rulers for 29 deaths

BISHO, South Africa (AP) - A top African National Congress official yesterday blamed former president F.W. de Klerk and other apartheid figures for the 1992 Bisho massacre, in which 29 people died when soldiers opened fire on protesters.

Cyril Ramaphosa, the ANC secretary general, told a Truth Commission hearing on the killings he believed the marchers were ambushed by soldiers of the former Ciskei black homeland.

Hundreds of anti-apartheid marchers protesting against leaders of the Ciskei homeland that day deviated from a pre-approved route and went through an opening in a stadium fence.

Soldiers on the other side shot at the marchers, killing 28 of them. One soldier died, apparently from shots fired by other soldiers at the protesters, and scores of people were injured.

Ciskei was one of 10 black homelands set up under apartheid to strip blacks of their South African citizenship. The ANC and other groups opposed the homelands and considered leaders of the territories collaborators with apartheid.

The Truth Commission is gathering testimony on political crimes from the apartheid era to promote reconciliation in South Africa. It was formed last year by President Nelson Mandela's ANC-led government, which took power after the nation's first all-race election in 1994.

Dole: Iraq results raise questions about Clinton strategy

FAYETTEVILLE, Georgia (AP) - After a week steering clear of criticizing President Clinton on Iraq, Bob Dole said yesterday that reports of continued killings and the apparent entrenchment of Iraqi troops near Irbil "raise questions" about Clinton's strategy.

In a statement distributed by his presidential campaign, Dole said the Clinton administration should be careful about claiming success in the region "and about giving assurances that it is unable or unwilling to fulfill, because the credibility of the United States is at stake."

"The reports of continued strife and killings in northern Iraq - to include executions of US-backed

16 SA students arrested in clash with police at Durban university

DURBAN (AP) - Rioting university students broke windows and threw stones at police, who responded with tear gas and rubber bullets in a clash yesterday at the University of Natal.

Four policemen were injured when hit by thrown objects, while 16 students were arrested on public violence charges, the South African Press Association reported. Fifteen cars were damaged, according to the SAPA report.

An Associated Press Television

Mao still deified 20 years after death

BELING (Reuters) - While mere mortals make do with clothes, Buddha must be clad in gold, according to a Chinese saying.

Visitors to the Shaoshan Mao family restaurant in Beijing could hardly miss the life-size bust of Mao Zedong sprayed with gold paint on an altar adorned with artificial flowers facing the front door.

Twenty years after his death, the Great Helmsman, who in 1958 launched the catastrophic Great Leap Forward campaign that starved 28 million people to death in a man-made famine, is still revered by millions in China as god or demi-god.

"I believe in Mao Zedong... Many of us bow (before the statue) every day," Li Jun, manager of the Mao restaurant, said in an interview.

Until a recent ban by Beijing authorities to curb superstition, the restaurant would cook Mao's favorite dishes every day and offer them as sacrificial food before the statue, flanked by candles and littered with small change offerings.

Despite unleashing the 1966-76 ultra-leftist Cultural Revolution that plunged China into turmoil, Mao is still respectfully referred to by millions in China simply as "chairman" of the Communist Party.

Mao fever subsided in the first few years after his death on September 9, 1976, but has revived in recent years.

The official assessment of Mao is that he committed "mistakes" in his later life but that these are outweighed by his "contributions" in leading the revolution to success.

Mao's death gave rise to market reforms, which after almost two decades have eroded communist puritanism and debunked almost all of what Mao stood for.

In China's rush to get rich, many businessmen - who would have been purged and struggled against during the Cultural Revolution - have cashed in on Mao's legacy.

More than 40 Mao restaurants have mushroomed across Beijing, something that would have made the chairman - a devoted Marxist - turn in his grave.

Irishman speaks of lost \$3 million lottery ticket

DUBLIN (Reuters) - A young Irish actor spoke yesterday of his anguish at losing a winning \$3 million lottery ticket last week, which is now thought to be lying in a rubbish dump in the west of Ireland.

Crowds of treasure hunters are expected to flock to the refuse site in search of the winning lottery ticket worth two million pounds (\$3.25 million) thought to be buried there.

Newspapers initially reported that the winning ticket was lost on a mountainside.

Young Irish actor Padraig O Tuairisc said he believed he had bought the winning ticket while on a camping trip with his American girlfriend Michelle Conway - and had accidentally thrown it away.

But would-be treasure hunters will have to wade through a mountain of rubbish. "It's now more than 10 days, and that pit accepts up to 15 truckloads a day," O Tuairisc said. "So you're talking about 150 truckloads."

A ticket bought on Achill Island in the far west of Ireland won the country's weekly lottery draw on

The Jerusalem Post talks about hit stale

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The PA slush fund

PALESTINIAN Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat has repeatedly raised the issue of the PA's dire financial straits in the past several days. The damage caused the PA's economy by the closure was one of the main focuses of Arafat's meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last week, and it was also one of the main issues raised by the Palestinians at a conference of donor nations over the weekend.

There is no denying that the closure has caused serious problems for the PA's economy, and in the short term, easing it may well be critical. In the long term, however, Netanyahu could probably do more for the PA's economy by one very simple act: shutting down the NIS 200 million slush fund which the previous government arranged for Arafat. Quite aside from the fact that there is no reason for Israel to be subsidizing Arafat, this fund is helping to perpetuate the PA's economic crisis.

As first revealed in *The Jerusalem Post* last week, Israel has transferred almost NIS 200m. over the past two years to a secret bank account in Tel Aviv earmarked for Arafat's discretionary use. Money for this fund comes from the gasoline tax rebates which Israel promised the PA under the Oslo Accords, but no one in the government knows where it goes. According to the agreement, however, this money was supposed to be part of the PA's operating budget.

The PA's deficit for the year is currently estimated at about \$127m. At today's exchange rates, NIS 200m. comes to some \$63m. Thus, had the Tel Aviv slush fund been transferred in its entirety to the PA's operating budget, the PA's deficit would have been reduced by half in one fell swoop.

However, the damage caused by the existence of this fund is much greater than the simple dollar figure which has been lost. It also has a multiplier effect - because most other countries do not like giving money when they do not know what it is being used for.

So far, according to World Bank figures, the international community has given the PA only 54% of the \$2.2 billion pledged three years ago. In an interview with the *Post* last week, a World Bank official bluntly dismissed the existence of the Tel Aviv slush fund, saying the donor nations' only concern is that the money they give does not go into a similar fund.

Off the record, however, most of the donor nations have made it clear that this is not the case. Money is fungible, and most countries see no reason to spend their own taxpayers' money to fund the PA's budget if the authority is not first using all of its own income for this purpose. A Peace Watch report published after the last donors' conference this April, for instance, noted that one of the donors' main reasons for refusing the PA's request for massive additional assistance was the PA's refusal to transfer millions of dollars from an unaudited account in the Office of the President to the PA Treasury, which is subject to International Monetary Fund

accounting rules. The money in the unaudited account does not come from the donor nations; it consists of revenue received from foreign corporations - mainly Israeli firms - operating in the PA. However, the donor nations said they were unwilling to keep subsidizing the PA's budget when they did not know what was being done with the money in the President's fund.

The Tel Aviv slush fund has already had a similar effect. As reported in the *Post*, two dozen donor nations formally asked Arafat to move this money into the regular PA budget back in April 1995, and US congressmen Benjamin Gilman, who heads the House International Affairs Committee, has been holding up \$10m. worth of US aid until he receives an explanation of how this fund is being used.

There also appears to be another extra-budgetary slush fund, as reported in yesterday's *Post*, to which Israel transfers the excise tax rebates it promised the PA under the accords.

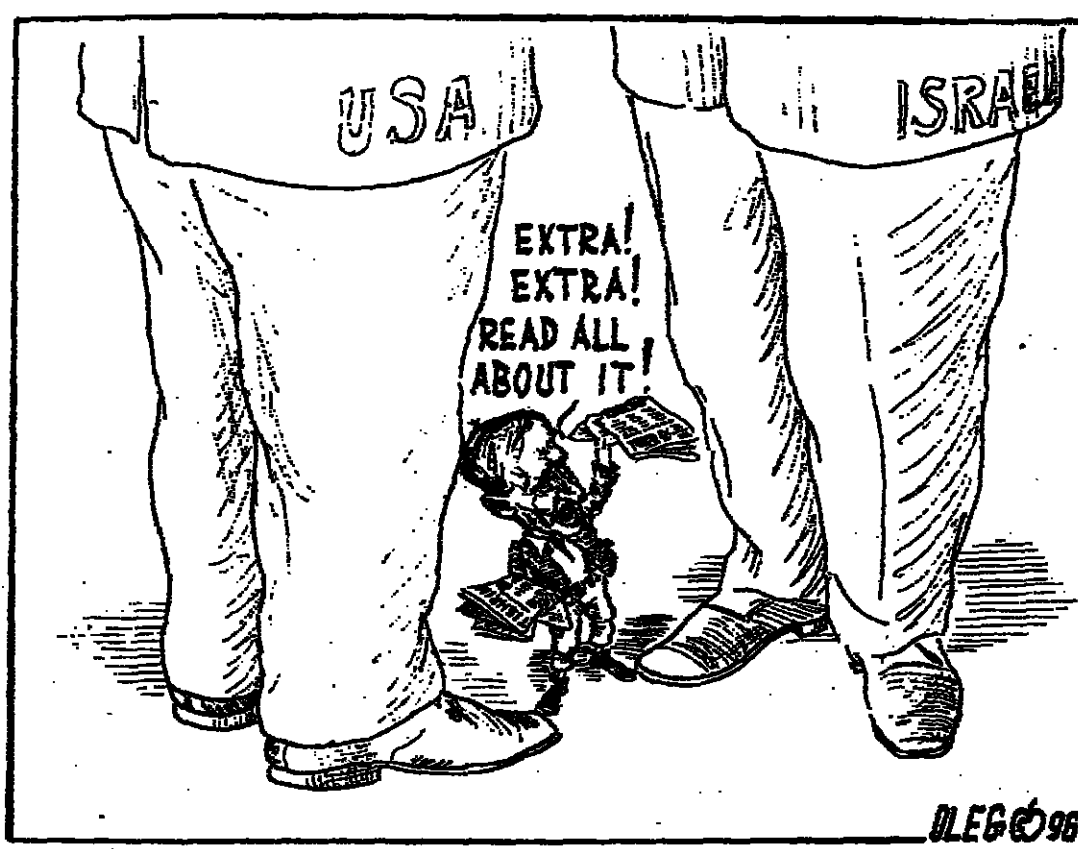
The lack of additional donor funds is important for the same reason the wasted money in these slush funds is important: The PA is desperately in need of investment. As Terje Larsen, UN special coordinator with the PA, reported at a press conference last month, the gross domestic product of the autonomous regions has fallen 25% over the past three years, and per capita income has declined even more: from \$1,800 to \$800 a year in Judea and Samaria and from \$1,200 to \$700 a year in Gaza. If this trend is not reversed, the PA will soon be in total economic collapse.

Easing the closure would help this problem in the short term, but it is at best a stop-gap measure. As one US official said at the donor conference this weekend, with 30,000 Palestinians a year entering the work force, Israel cannot possibly supply enough jobs. The only long-term solution is for the PA to begin creating jobs of its own, and this requires substantial investment. However, neither governments nor private firms like investing in a place whose budget operates by slush fund rather than by principles of transparency.

Israel cannot, of course, force the PA to engage in responsible accounting practices, but it can encourage it to do so by ceasing to aid and abet financial irresponsibility. First and foremost, this means cutting off the slush money and transferring these funds into the official PA Treasury instead.

The Prime Minister's Office has said the government is studying the issue and will take "appropriate action" once it has uncovered the facts. In the meantime, however, Netanyahu has authorized payments to the Tel Aviv fund to continue, apparently for fear of antagonizing Arafat.

Netanyahu should stop hesitating and close down the gas tax fund - as well as the excise tax fund, if it exists - immediately. Even if it causes a short-term crisis in relations, the long-term health of the PA's economy is far more important.



The way we were

ISRAEL'S new government is slowly becoming indistinguishable from its predecessor. It claims, for example, to have imposed a Hebron agreement "on our terms." The Palestinians, meanwhile, claim the exact opposite.

This agreement, signed only by a third party, is a "non-paper," lending itself to all sorts of contradictory interpretations (like all the previous government's Oslo-related documents). Asked about it recently Dan Shomron, the government's newly-appointed chief negotiator, said: "I assume [sic] our demands have been met."

The government is also boasting of the closure of three of the Palestinian Authority's many offices in Jerusalem, when those offices haven't really been closed. And Orient House, run by Palestinian cabinet minister for Jerusalem affairs Faisal Hussein, is as active as ever.

The prime minister hasn't been protesting the ever-increasing violations of his order that the Jerusalem office of Palestinian council member Hatem Abdel Kader be shut down; and hundreds of Jibril Rajoub's thugs continue to enforce their partial reign over the city.

At the same time the government has accepted Yasser Arafat's forced apology for Benjamin Netanyahu having been called "a worse Nazi than Hitler" on the Voice of Palestine. But the same radio station later aired a commentary in Arabic defending the broadcast on the grounds of freedom of speech.

Arafat's promise to investigate and punish those responsible recalls his undertaking to replace certain articles of the Palestinian Covenant within six months.

Like its predecessor, the Likud government doesn't make PLO violations a top priority. In fact, no violation was even mentioned in the drafts of the so-called agreement that preceded the Netanyahu-Arafat meeting. They contain only PLO demands.

The Likud has even rejuvenated Dr. Ahmed Tibi, who garnered hardly any support from his public during our elections. It is rebuilding his political status. Yet during the Labor govern-

YIGAL CARMON

ment, the Likud went berserk over this same illegitimate political phenomenon.

So what does it all mean? Does it mean that Oslo was a better course than the Likud was willing to admit all along? Does it mean that there is no other alternative?

THE OSLO process is a tragedy for Israelis and Palestinians, for two reasons. First, it is being conducted with the PLO, which by definition represents the problems created in 1948, particularly the

The Likud government can still keep faith with the electorate via an alternative that hasn't been tried

right of return of refugees to within the Green Line. To this there is no solution both sides could accept.

Secondly, Oslo is a political tool the PLO uses to threaten that if its demands are not met - and that includes Jerusalem - it will resort to armed struggle.

Nabil Shaath and Mohammed Dahlan have threatened this publicly, and Arafat himself includes it in his speeches.

Just this week the PLO chief reiterated the threat in an emotional appeal to Palestinian youth at the start of the new school year. Needless to say Israel isn't helpless. It will emerge the winner. But the inevitable confrontation, under new conditions created by Oslo in which the PLO has tens of thousands of soldiers and weapons - that is the tragedy for both nations, winner and loser alike.

The previous government and a good part of our political and intellectual elite dismissed the Palestinians' demand for right of return, underestimating its depth. Yet this demand grows stronger with each passing month.

As long as the PLO does not genuinely alter course, the dangers of Oslo won't be diminished merely by virtue of there being a Likud government. Nor is the Netanyahu-Arafat combination less perilous for Israel than the Peres-Arafat one before it.

The Likud could have done differently.

When it endorsed the government's platform to proceed with Oslo on condition that the PLO honor its commitments, the entire party underwent a historic ideological transformation that could have paved the way for a novel political course based on a stable ideological movement. This new path would have been more flexible than the one traditionally espoused by the Likud - and it wouldn't necessarily have gone against Jabotinsky's philosophy.

If only the Likud government had demanded that Palestinian commitments be honored as a precondition to any high-level dialogue, arriving at a solution to the conflict would for the first time have been genuinely viable. After all, it's a reasonable demand, easily explained to Israel's peace-loving public and even to the Palestinians, who have learned firsthand over the past three years what the PA - that even the dovish *Newsweek* calls a "mafia" - is really like.

Unfortunately the government has been wasting a golden opportunity, all because it wants to avoid the inevitable immediate political confrontation with the Palestinians. The PLO, after all, was taught by our previous government that its goals could be achieved by means of pressure and threats, without any price needing to be paid.

Yet even now, after the Netanyahu-Arafat meeting, it isn't too late.

Moving ahead with Oslo without preconditions is a breach of promise to the Israeli electorate. More pointedly, it guarantees a perpetuation of the very conflict it purports to solve. The demand for preconditions is an alternative that hasn't been tried.

The writer is a former prime ministerial adviser on counterterrorism.

Second chance

YOSEF GOELL

YITZHAK Rabin's assassination last November was a profound trauma for his family and many close friends and colleagues. But it was also a national tragedy of unprecedented proportions.

The thought that we Israelis had descended to such "normality" as to spawn a religiously-motivated assassin profoundly touched millions of Israelis, including those who had opposed him politically.

Clearly national tragedies are the last thing anyone wants. But when they occur they ought to be handled in a way that fosters social solidarity. And this seemed to be happening in the immediate aftermath of the assassination.

But then Rabin's widow, family, friends and party colleagues insisted on tarring their political opponents on the right with responsibility for the murder. There was an attempt to target the entire national religious camp and its institutions.

The Oslo process had increased political polarization perilously in a country that was already one of the most heatedly politicized in the democratic world. Yigal Amir pulled the trigger on Rabin; but many hundreds and possibly thousands of Israelis support him and are glad he did the deed.

That however in no way justifies using the assassination to besmirch the entire right and National Religious segments of the political spectrum who opposed Rabin and his policies.

Rabin's successor, Shimon Peres, advanced the date of elections from October 29 to May 29 because he and his party wanted to capitalize on the public trauma following the assassination.

Once they did this it shouldn't have come as any surprise that those who were attacked so broadly and indiscriminately lashed out in a counterattack instead of turning inward to search their souls and ask what impact their actions might have

A Rabin memorial service at which neither the president nor the premier speaks would be a serious blunder

had on the assassin and his supporters.

Whatever healing that might have grown out of that terrible event was lost.

WE MAY get a second chance for national healing.

In less than two months, according to the Hebrew calendar, we will mark the first anniversary of the assassination. Israelis will be called upon to commune with the memory of Yitzhak Rabin.

But the danger exists that we could flub this occasion too.

The governmental Committee on Ceremonies and Symbols has reportedly given in to the demand by Leah Rabin and the Rabin family that neither President Ezer Weizman nor Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu be permitted to speak at the memorial ceremony.

Mrs. Rabin is known to have been irate over the tasteless eulogy Weizman delivered at the funeral; and she and her family are said to be possessed of a deep animus against Netanyahu, whom they accuse of rabble-rousing and creating the superheated political atmosphere that made the assassination possible.

You don't argue with bereaved families. But the Yitzhak Rabin who is to be memorialized at the end of October no longer belongs to his family alone. He, his memory and the lessons to be learned from his life and the manner of his death belong to us all.

For those who care for the memory of the man and for those lessons, the government committee's decision is shameful.

During his lifetime Yitzhak Rabin entertained a profound disdain for politicians of all parties, especially, perhaps, for those of his own party, with whom he was the most familiar.

One could imagine that were Rabin himself able to express a preference, he would opt for a commemoration that was totally free of all politicians and their cant.

But if we are to have a national ceremony it is only fitting that both the president of the state and Rabin's democratically elected successor be asked to address the nation from the podium.

We can also legitimately demand that both men go to the greatest possible lengths to live up to that national occasion.

The writer comments on public affairs.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SYRIAN ASSETS

Sir - All would eminently agree with Abba Eban's assertion in his article "A 'Golansque' situation" (August 16) that "one of the iron rules of negotiation is not to offer your adversary something he already possesses," if that is the case. Another iron rule of negotiation is not to publicize and give away your final position before the negotiations have even commenced. A pity Mr. Eban did not assert this iron rule when the Rabin/Peres-led Labor government was in power and tried unsuccessfully to deal with Assad of Syria.

Mr. Eban's statement that Syria already possesses water and security conveniently ignores other problems related to these two so-called Syrian assets.

Firstly, the main source of fresh flowing water in Syria is the Euphrates River, but these waters emanate from the mountains of Turkey. Recently, the Turks have been raising the issue of why they should give away one of their precious natural resources when the Arabs sell their oil and natural gas. Moreover, Turkey knows that Israel would gladly pay to purchase fresh water.

The present situation for poor Turkey is like "water down the drain." Syria's main source of fresh flowing water could be shut off overnight.

Secondly, any rational person would have to ask why a country that possesses security and "...does not have pressing security concerns..." would find it necessary to arm itself to the teeth as Syria does. The whole world knows that the Syrian military arsenal is far in excess of normal defense requirements. And Syria is one big armed camp. Surely this is related to security concerns, whether real or imagined. Moreover, if Mr. Assad were to relax his grip on power in Syria with so many domestic enemies that hate his Alawite sect and with tens of thousands of armed terrorists hosted by the country who could turn on him in a coup d'etat, it might be his undoing.

At the present, the right place to address mail about Lebanon is Assad in Syria, which is what Mr. Netanyahu rightly did with his Lebanon First proposal.

DAVID MARKS
Jerusalem.

FREEDOM OF WORSHIP

Sir - Faisal Hussein, appearing on Israeli TV news in English on August 30, said that under the present Israeli government, there is no freedom of worship in Jerusalem. He is quite right. But this non-freedom of worship goes back to the British Mandate times.

Under the British, Jews were forbidden to blow the shofar at the Wall at the end of Yom Kippur. Under the Jordanians, Jews were forbidden to visit any of the Jewish holy sites that were under illegal Jordanian hegemony. And under the

Israeli governments since 1967, when the holy sites finally came back to Jewish control, Jews are forbidden to pray on the Temple Mount.

It was noticeable that, when Arafat called for a mass Arab march on the Temple Mount for Friday prayers, he called on Christians to join the Muslims, but pointedly refrained from asking his Jewish supporters to join in.

YEKUTIEL BARETTI
Jerusalem.

THE UGLY ISRAELI

Sir - Hillel Halkin's impressions of Israelis abroad ("The ugly Israeli is a failure of Zionism," August 23) appear well founded. Less convincing, however, is the title.

Zionist, later Israeli, education put a strong - and well documented - emphasis on aggressive self-reliance. What Mr. Halkin describes should rather be viewed as a major achievement of Zionism. Being considerate, sensitive, courteous were deemed "galut" qualities which were to have no place in the new country. The results of several decades of such education are truly remarkable and obviously attributable to Zionism.

It is quite another question if this education finds grace in the eyes of non-Israelis, Jews and non-Jews alike, or whether it reflects the values which form the basis of the Jewish continuity.

YAKOV M. RABKIN
Jerusalem.

RAMALLAH BY-PASS ROAD

Sir - In his article, "Settlements in silence" (August 14), Uri Avnery writes that the Ramallah by-pass road "does not serve any populace, not even the settlers."

I happen to have used this busy road last week. I noticed that it is quite heavily used by many Arab cars and trucks. The road serves the Jewish settlements north of Ramallah and at least a dozen easily come to mind.

There was so much traffic that some drivers lost patience and were busy overtaking. The army also uses it and the military police has even set up electronic equipment to photograph drivers exceeding the speed limit.

Where is Avnery's credibility?
ELCHANAN PELS
Jerusalem.

Netanyahu's dilemma

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

THE Netanyahu-Arafat handshake last week was another small step toward Israel's finally coming to grips with reality. At least part of the Likud has finally realized what many have known for a decade or two, that if we truly seek an end to more than a century of enmity between ourselves and the Arab world we must have truck with the PLO and the man who has led it since 1968.

True, Binjamin Netanyahu et al argue that the Oslo process wasn't inevitable, that it was imposed on the Likud by Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres. If that makes the bitter pill easier for them to swallow, fine.

A correct conclusion is more important than the road that led there, even though one can't forget that along the way was Yitzhak Rabin's assassination (for which the Likud was in no way responsible) and a slanderous presentation of Peres in the election campaign (for which the Likud was most definitely responsible).

The question now is what comes after the handshake. Encouragingly, Netanyahu and his people seem to be realizing that the Palestinian leadership is made up of many different personalities and approaches, playing different roles in Palestinian society and the negotiating process with Israel. This realization is even more important than the handshake, implying as it does a humanization (or de-demonization) of our approach to the Palestinians. Netanyahu and his people have

also reportedly come to realize that the Palestinian Authority has taken genuine measures against Hamas and the Islamic Jihad since the February-March terrorist wave. With this must come the understanding that the PA functions within horrendous constraints.

It wasn't long ago that the Likud

that unfolded at the Likud Central Committee meeting the day after the handshake.

The majority that elected Netanyahu as premier is divided between those who accept the Oslo process in principle and prefer Netanyahu rather than Peres to see it through, and those who reject it out of hand.

While the former no longer deny the existence of the Palestinian national movement (which is what dealing with the PLO means) and are motivated primarily by legitimate security concerns, the latter operate out of the deep-seated belief that only the Jews have legitimate national and historical rights in Eretz Yisrael. For them the absence of security is just another excuse to deny Palestinian rights.

Thus a clear majority of Israelis - all those who voted for Peres and a percentage (we don't know exactly how large) of those who voted for Netanyahu - accept the inevitability of our coming to terms with the Palestinians.

Netanyahu's dilemma is that neither his own party nor his coalition fully reflect the views of this majority. Sooner or later he will have to make a very difficult political choice, with far-reaching implications for both the state and his own political career.

The writer is a political scientist.

He's done the handshake - now what?

mocked Peres for exerting himself to get the world to pour money into the autonomy to give it a real chance. Hopefully we shall soon hear the Likud boasting that its representatives have been more successful than Peres in this endeavor.

I wouldn't be surprised if before long the Likud explains to us that the Palestinian Covenant is truly null and void; and if, while thanking Prof. Yehoshua Porat for helping Netanyahu win the election, it tells him that there is much more to understanding historical developments than a biased analysis of documents.

HOW Netanyahu proceeds from here will largely depend on how he decides to deal with the reality

The struggle to play for Amos

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

IN 1987 a 20-year-old Israeli guitarist traveled to the US to further his studies. He, and a thousand others, enrolled in the guitar division of the Berkeley School of Music. "After one semester I ran away," Amos Elkana now recalls. "There, it was like a factory and I couldn't stand it." He moved to the nearby New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. "But they did not accept me, at least not to the guitar program."

Elkana was accepted into composition studies, and that led to a career in composition which brought his works to some of the major concert halls around the world, including Carnegie Hall, where the Berlin Saxophone Quartet premiered his saxophone quartet in April 1993. Next year Elkana's newest opus will be premiered at the Berlin Festival.

The new piece, which he is currently working on, is entitled *Arabic Lessons*, and is based on songs written by his German poet-friend, Michael Roes. Elkana is fluent neither in Arabic nor in German, so "I asked Professor Sason Somech from the Hebrew University if he would consider translating these poems."

"He took the manuscript from me without any promise and within a month returned it with his translation." Elkana composed *Arabic Lessons* for an extended chamber ensemble featuring three singers and eight instrumentalists. "In a way it is like a mini-opera, at least in its character."

The composer will use Hebrew, German and Arabic throughout the work. Elkana chose a mixture of classically oriented instruments and some more easily associated with lighter music styles. And so, aside from the flute, oboe, cello, harp and percussion he will use saxophone, electric bass and a drum set.

Players will include his flutist wife, Liat. "I usually write with the exact performers in mind," he explains, adding that as much as he appreciates his musicians, he does not make their life easy. "I'm struggling as a composer and so they can struggle too." Yet he makes sure that what he demands from his musicians is actually feasible. "It's all very

fine to write something from a philosophical-musical point of view, but if the performer cannot do it because of breathing or fingering problems then what's the point? There is a kind of alliance between the creator and the performer which I must adhere to." And this is why Elkana likes to work closely with the musicians who perform his music. When he composed his wind quintet for the New Israeli Wind Quintet he spent three weeks with the ensemble's five musicians working on the piece, rehearsing and understanding it. "I have no problems in making changes if necessary... and I leave the actual interpretation to the performers themselves."

WHILE ELKANA believes strongly that he must keep his alliance with the musicians who perform his works, he demands quite a different kind of allegiance with the audience who comes to listen to his works. "I will never write for the audience's taste. I believe we have to educate the audience and not the other way round. When people come to a concert they should be wide open to receive whatever they are presented with. I'm here to make them listen to something interesting, to excite them. And all emotions are relevant as a reaction whether it is anger or admiration. The only thing I cannot accept is boredom."

Having said that, he does not aim at torturing the audience and he definitely composes real music for them. "I know some composers believe that silence is also a kind of music which is right as a philosophy. However, music is music and I write music. Otherwise people can sit in a cafe, close their eyes and listen and get their share of music."

When asked to name his major influences, he immediately speaks about the *doyen* of Israeli composers, Joseph Tal. "Each conversation with Tal provides me with an inspiration for another half a year." And in between conversations with Tal, Elkana composes as much as he can. "The most depressing thing for me is when I cannot write. As long as I can compose each and every day, I'm happy."



Julia Louis-Dreyfus gets acquainted with her award.

Elaine gets her Emmy

TYNE Daly became US television's most honored dramatic actress at Sunday's Primetime Emmy Awards, while Julia Louis-Dreyfus and Rip Torn picked up honors for supporting acting in comedy series.

Daly collected her fifth Emmy in 10 nominations for her role as Miss Alice in the CBS network's canceled schoolteacher drama *Christy*. Ray Walston, the sharp-tongued Judge Henry Bone on the CBS series *Picket Fences*, won the best supporting dramatic actor award for the second consecutive year.

Walston, 77, called the award a tribute to the show's final season. Host Paul Reiser of *Mad About You* kept the show rolling, displaying self-deprecating humor when jokes bombed. "I'm not here to shine. I think that will become very obvious as the show moves along," he warned at the outset.

Louis-Dreyfus, who crossed her fingers and mouthed "Please" before the winner was announced, won her first Emmy in five nominations for her role as Elaine on NBC's *Seinfeld*.

"A lot of people say that our show is about nothing, but of course it's been about plenty of something for me," she said tearfully. Tom, who plays the harried producer on HBO's *The Larry Sanders Show*, credited his star for his supporting-actor honor.

"I stand here - it's all due to my boss Garry Shandling and his comic genius," Tom said. Best comedy series writing went

to NBC's *Frasier*, giving the show three Emmys, including two in the weekend's preliminary awards.

Greta Scacchi won outstanding supporting actress in a miniseries or special for her role as Alexandra in HBO's *Rasputin*. Tom Hulce took the supporting actor's award in the category, for *The Heidi Chronicles*.

The Kennedy Center Honors picked up two trophies, one for best variety, music or comedy special and another for directing.

ABC and NBC headed into the 48th annual Emmy Awards as dueling leaders with 11 trophies each, collected at a preliminary weekend ceremony.

The *X-Files* was the leading show, with four Emmys in the non-television creative arts awards Saturday night. The quirky sci-fi show picked up a fifth award Sunday, for writing in a drama series.

Amid growing concern about sex and violence on TV, the new President's Award will be given to a program of social value. ER was the only network show nominated; the rest were drawn from cable TV.

Emmys in 28 major categories were presented at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium in ceremonies broadcast live by ABC. The show honored the 50th anniversary of the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, which hands out the Emmys each year.

Sunday's show was expected to be seen in more than 85 foreign countries by an estimated overseas audience of more than 600 million, the academy said.

'New Adventures' take R.E.M. to the top of the world

IN TUNE DAVID BRINN

New Adventures in HI-FI R.E.M. (Hed Arutz)

R.E.M. well past its 15th year together, continues to surprise and mesmerize.

From its roots as an unassuming post-punk band from Athens, Georgia, Michael Stipe and Co. have grown into the most influential rock band in the world. Reconciling all the attention and hoopla surrounding its new releases (including the obscene amount of money its members now receive for each new album) with its artistic vision has been one of the main obstacles facing the band of late, and one it seems to be overcoming.

For the first decade of its existence, R.E.M. forged new paths out of the ashes of punk, virtually singlehandedly creating the beast now called alternative rock. Chiming guitars, cryptic vocals sung in an understated mumble, and a driving beat won it a devoted if limited following.

All that changed with the one-two punch in the early '90s of *Out of Time* and *Automatic for the People*, two albums full of gorgeous pristine pop that propelled the band into superstar territory, but diminished some of its do-it-yourself spontaneity.

Their last record, *Monster*, found the band exploring rougher, darker areas, and in the process sacrificing some of the song craft for sound craft. The band seemed to be



Melodic and majestic, R.E.M. is the pride of Athens, Georgia.

hiding its identity behind a grunge attack. While always interesting, it was the group's least successful release since 1988's *Green*, which also contained attempts that bordered on the generic.

New Adventures finds the band incorporating the best elements of *Automatic* and *Monster* to create something totally new and fresh. Call it a live album with studio sheen, or a studio album with rough spots.

Borrowing a concept coined by

Jackson Browne for *Running on Empty*, the band wrote and recorded songs throughout their 1995 world tour (which included Israel). So we get tracks played in soundchecks, dressing rooms, concerts and a few even recorded in the studio.

The good news is that the melodies are back full force. More than half the material falls close to the majestic tone of *Automatic*, while the other half takes its cue from the raucous side of *Monster*.

However, whereas *Monster*, which was supposed to have been looser and rootier, still sounded immaculately planned out, the rockers here are built around solid tunes, and not just guitar textures, as on *Monster*.

Mike Mills continues to use a cheery organ whenever possible, which lends a trash-rock feel to the rockers.

And even though the lyrics are now pronounced much more clearly than they were a decade ago,

I've given up trying to understand what they mean, and simply let Peter Buck's astonishing diversity on guitar carry the show.

There's an amazing amount of material here, and listening to it harks back to the heyday of the Beatles, when it would take hours of repeated playbacks to grasp all the complexities.

At this point, it seems as if R.E.M. is on the top of the world. There's no band in the '80s or '90s that has a track record to match it, and while history may not place *New Adventures* among its best, it's only because R.E.M.'s been great for so long.

Coming Up SUEDE (NMC)

I had a Blurry dream in which I came upon an Oasis filled with people dressed in Suede.

Has anyone ever seen these bands together? Is there any evidence that they aren't really the same band fixated on David Bowie's Ziggy Stardust phase?

Suede's third release since being declared England's next big thing is enjoyable Brit-pop, featuring Brett Anderson's Bowie imitation on 10 appealing tunes.

There's nothing that hasn't been done before, if not better at least earlier, but I wouldn't turn any of these songs off if they came on the radio, especially the single "Trash," one of the best tunes the band has recorded.

As satisfying as it was, as soon as the album was over, I found myself searching out my old Mott the Hoople records to hear the real thing.

Bible on Broadway

MARILYN HENRY NEW YORK

KING David, who slew the Philistine Goliath, will lead a dramatic assault on pornography when the Walt Disney Company brings the biblical hero's story to New York's frayed theater district.

Disney announced last month that the soon-to-be-renovated New Amsterdam Theater, once the crown jewel of Broadway, will reopen with a musical production befitting a king - David, that is.

The renovation of the 93-year-old theater is the centerpiece of what is hoped will be a tourist-friendly future for the gritty 42nd Street-Times Square neighborhood, long the province of prostitutes, street peddlers and drug pushers. "King David is a glorious adventure story," said Mike Ockrent, who will direct the Disney production, simply to be called *King David*.

The music is being created by Alan Mencken and Tim Rice, who previously collaborated on the Disney production *Beauty and the Beast* on Broadway, and the animated film *Aladdin*.

The renovation of the theater, which will cost an estimated \$34 million, will be completed next May. *King David* will have only five performances, from May 20 to May 24, 1997, Disney executives said.

However, "King David - the concert event" may become "King David - the musical." Three of Rice's earlier works - *Chess*, *Evita*, and *Jesus Christ Superstar* - were concert events before they were developed into full-scale musicals.

In December, *The New York Times* reported that *King David* would premiere in Caesarea. But producer Andre Djaoui said that the production had not been ready in time for the Jerusalem 3000 celebrations, adding that the delay was not to be taken as a commentary on Middle East political disputes, the *Times* reported.

King David will premiere down the block from a seedy movie house called Harem, and around the corner from a theater offering a "Live Nude Revue" and "XXX movies." When it opened in 1903, with a production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The New York Times* called the theater a "theatrical Louvre - a dramatic Metropolitan Museum."

Ballet of the absurd

DANCE REVIEW DORA SOWDEN

IN her 20 years of Israeli dance, as outstanding performer, creator and teacher, Sally-Anne Friedland never before produced anything quite so essentially Israeli in its fashioning as her latest *Collections*. Not that it is specifically Israeli in theme, for, like all good dance makers she has drawn on personal experiences and feelings, and if it were not so fresh and full of fun one might have called it the dance of the absurd.

At the Suzanne Dellal Theater in Tel Aviv (September 5) it began seriously enough with droning drumming sound, and it opened with a magician (Zohar Markman) whirling a flaming rod so fast that it looked like a wheel of fire. Then, five women in long, flowing, upstage until five maidens in hoods and bras were revealed holding them up and leaving them to form a handsome background for the rest of the show.

Was this dance? Not exactly at first, but frolics from time to time became modern dance of highly contemporary texture. It included

Barenboim the magician

CONCERT ROUNDUP

THE outstanding artistic achievement of Daniel Barenboim's performance, in the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra's "Outstanding Recitals" series, was Debussy's "Preludes," Book I.

Each of the 12 pieces displayed a unique experience in itself, often softly, almost insidiously caressing, and frequently brisk and decisive. All the incessantly changing intermediate shadings were likewise created in an admirably premeditated palette.

This is unemotional music par excellence, not expressing human feeling but conjuring up moods, atmospheres and intangibles. The way the pianist realized these bordered on magic.

International Convention Center, September 5. Ury Eppstein

WHEN Argentinian maestro Pedro Ignacio Calderon stood in front of the Ashdod Chamber Orchestra, it was as if a new orchestra was born.

The orchestra played Elgar's *Serenade for Strings* in a most professional way and presented a very decent reading of Beethoven's *Fourth Symphony*. Jung Kwak gave a warmhearted reading of Handel's *Harp Concerto*, and, in the premiere of H.D. Zuckerman's rather bland *Triumph of Jerusalem*, the orchestra showed an admirable commitment to the score.

Sherover Theater, Jerusalem, August 29. Michael Ajzenstadt

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS LAST WEEKS ON WEEK WEEK CHARTS	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	RAMI KLEINSTEIN	COLLECTION
#2	VIA	HITMAN 7
#3	RITA	COLLECTION
#4	DANA INTERNATIONAL	MAGNONA
#5	SHLOMO ARTZI	SHNAIM
#6	FRIENDS OF NATASHA	LIVE
#7	FUGEES	THE SCORE
#8	TEA PACKS	KLAVIM LO NOVHIM
#9	RKI GAL	CHEVET OTCHA YOTER
#10	PET SHOP BOYS	BILINGUAL
#11	ALANIS MORISSETTE	JAGGED LITTLE PILL
#12	SOUND TRACK	TRAINSPOTTING
#13	VIA	VERY BEST OF ISRAEL
#14	RONIT SHAHAR	SHALOM LATMIMUT
#15	SUEDE	COMING UP

Tower Records' top-selling albums for last week

10 out of 10 for dance on Succot

HELEN KAYE

THE Alvin Ailey American Dance Company (ADT) and Julio Bocca and his Ballet Argentinio will each give five performances during Succot week, and there the resemblance ends.

Bocca is a 29-year-old ballet superstar on whom critics everywhere lavish superlatives. Five years ago he went back to Argentina to lend his name and his prestige to the newly-formed Ballet Argentinio whose young dancers, aged 16 to 20, the *New York Times*'s Anna Kisselgoff called "exceptionally well-trained."

ADT performs at Caesarea October 1-3 and at the Tel Aviv Cinemas October 5 and 6.

Bocca himself burst onto an astounded dance world at 18 when he won the gold at the Moscow Competition in 1985. Baryshnikov, then artistic director of the American Ballet Theater, promptly signed him as a principal dancer.

Since then, he has danced most of the major classical roles in most of the world's top ballet companies and with most of the world's top ballerinas such as Nina Ananiashvili, fellow Argentinian Paloma Herrera and even Natalia Makarova.

Ailey needs no introduction and although Ailey himself died in 1989, his chosen successor and his former star, Judith Jamison, carries on the tradition. "The dance came from the people," Ailey said once. "It should always be given back to the people."

The Argentinians are performing at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv on October 2 and 4, in Caesarea on October 5 and 6 and at the Sherover Theater in Jerusalem on October 7.

ADT performs at Caesarea October 1-3 and at the Tel Aviv Cinemas October 5 and 6.



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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Makhteshim, Agan intend to swap shares

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

SHARES of Makhteshim and Agan, subsidiaries of Koor Industries, will be exchanged for shares in a holding company, which will turn into the two agrochemical manufacturers' parent company, the firms announced yesterday.

The share swap is intended to increase the companies' potential to raise capital and strengthen their international competitive potential, the companies' board of directors said.

The shares will be swapped for ones in MAGM Chemistry Holdings, a fully owned subsidiary of Koor Industries, the companies said in an announcement to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

They also decided to separate the companies' agrochemical activities from the group's remaining business.

Makhteshim and Agan are leading manufacturers of generic agrochemicals.

The Makhteshim group is considered the country's leading developer, producer and distributor of chemicals for agriculture and industry.

Agan is mainly engaged in production of crop protection chemicals and is also a manufacturer of synthetic aromas chemicals.

According to the proposed plan, Makhteshim and Agan shareholders can exchange their shares in the companies for MAGM shares.

After the share swap, which requires the approval of the companies' shareholders, MAGM shares will start to trade on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. Koor

expects the share swap to be completed in the second half of 1997.

In the future, MAGM will establish a crop-protection subsidiary, which will hold all of Makhteshim's and Agan's issued share capital.

The companies' other activities will be transferred directly to MAGM.

Koor's holding in Makhteshim is 67 percent.

About 47% of Agan's issued share capital is held by Makhteshim, while Koor's direct holdings in Agan amount to about 2.5%.

The proposed agreement is in the framework of Agan's and Makhteshim's long-term plans to turn into international companies and strengthen their international market position.

The share swap will not only increase the companies' equity, making it more attractive to investors, but will also cut costs.

Already today, Agan and Makhteshim, have a joint export network through which they market their products worldwide.

The two companies already coordinate in a number of projects.

In March, Makhteshim and Agan acquired, in equal parts, a 49% stake in Herbitechnica, a Brazilian company engaged in the formulation and distribution of crop-protection chemicals.

More recently, in July, the companies acquired, in equal parts, a 49% stake in Aragoness-agro, a Spanish company engaged in the formulation and distribution of crop-protection chemicals.

Sharon: Two train lines will link Gaza with Judea, Samaria

DAVID HARRIS

THERE will be two train lines linking Gaza with Judea and Samaria, National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon revealed this week.

One service, on existing tracks, will run between Gaza and the Arab cities in Samaria, entering the territories at Kalkilya.

The other, which will run to Turkumiya, a village 10 kilometers northwest of Hebron, will require the construction of a line from Kiryat Gat.

The first route would take freight and passengers from the Erez crossing point at Gaza, on to Kalkilya and Tulkarim, according to Sharon.

"In my opinion it will be a good means of transport," he said. "The eventual aim is to connect Gaza with Egypt, using lines that operated in the past."

Last month Sharon announced that within a year trains will run from Erez to the Port of Ashdod, and four trains a day will begin running shortly between Ashdod and Tel Aviv.

"All these routes will aid the population, securing the ties with neighboring states," Sharon said.

While not placing a time limit on the scheme, Sharon's plan is similar to that revealed by PA Transport Ministry land transport director general Mohammed Jaradat two weeks ago.

The Palestinian proposal is for a \$156 million fully integrated rail system and seaport within three years.

Trains would run from Gaza, along the Ashkelon-Haifa line, entering the West Bank at Kalkilya, and continuing to Tulkarim and Nablus. Jaradat also revealed the intention to construct a second line, from Afula, through Jenin, into Jordan, connecting with the Amman-Damascus track.

Meanwhile, two lines are planned between Egypt's major population centers and northern Sinai.

The first, scheduled for completion next April, will run from Cairo to Al Arish, according to Jaradat.

A second major route, between Ismailiya and Rafah, was approved by the Egyptian government last month.

This will cost \$400m. and should be operational by 2000.

Deposits boom in bank savings plans

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

BANK savings programs attracted deposits of about NIS1.47 billion in August, while provident funds, which continued to post negative returns, had redemptions of NIS2.24b., the Treasury reported yesterday.

The provident funds' total withdrawals since the start of the year reached NIS7.57b., according to figures from the country's five largest banks.

Analysts said the large amount of withdrawals reflect the public's continued preference to invest in saving plans and shekel-linked deposits, which offer higher yields than the provident funds.

Fund managers hope the improved yields of provident funds in August will stem the redemption trend.

Since the start of the year, saving plans have accumulated NIS3.23 billion. In August, index-linked plans attracted NIS1.59b., compared with NIS964m. in July. Foreign currency linked plans registered withdrawals of NIS121m., compared with NIS132m. in July.

Training funds suffered redemptions of NIS74m. in August, compared to NIS59m. in the previous month. Since the start of the year the funds have accumulated net redemptions of NIS43.35m.



Misako Kokubo, chief planner of Sanyo Electric Co., accesses the Netscape homepage to demonstrate the firm's new Internet Television, model C-28WNT1, while she enjoys the autumn grand sumo tournament on the TV. Sanyo announced yesterday it will begin selling its Internet televisions, which have their own browser software, on October 25, for \$1,800. (Reuters)

Summit organizer: Egypt will give green light to Cairo conference within a week

DAVID HARRIS

A POSITIVE announcement on the Cairo economic summit is likely to be made within a week, according to World Economic Forum director Gregory Blatt, who is in the Middle East to coordinate preparations for the event.

Speaking in Jerusalem yesterday, Blatt, who represents the summit's organizing body, said the Egyptians are actively preparing for the summit, despite their warnings it may be canceled if there is no movement in Israel's peace negotiations with the PA.

"They [the Egyptians] are taking this very seriously," said Blatt. "This is not an organization coming

in, so we'll send a couple of ministers and host a dinner. They are putting in a lot of resources and attention."

Despite Blatt's prediction, the summit is still being linked to an IDF withdrawal from Hebron, Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Mohammed Bassiouny said yesterday. "We hope the Israeli government will move quickly to implement all agreements signed with the PA and interim agreements Oslo 1 and 2."

The PA will support whatever decision the Egyptians make

regarding the summit, said Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PEDCAR) director Mohammed Ishayah.

Blatt met yesterday with those preparing the Israeli government's involvement in Cairo, including Treasury director-general David Brodet, representatives of the Prime Minister's Office, Industry and Trade and Foreign ministries, and government adviser on the summit, Yossi Vardi.

After meeting the officials and Prime Minister Binyamin

Netanyahu, Blatt said he is very pleased with the attitude being taken in Israel, including a "productive, fruitful partnership" between the public and private sectors.

Among the central topics on the provisional Cairo timetable is privatization in the Middle East, with a likely Egyptian announcement of sales of many of its 600-plus state-owned companies.

Delegates will also discuss the development of large-scale infrastructure projects along the south-east Mediterranean coast, Jordan Valley and in the Eilat-Aqaba region. These will mainly concern tourism and transportation.

Apartment shortage predicted for 1998

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE recent drop in new housing starts is expected to lead to a shortage in apartments and a rise in prices at the start of 1998, Malibu Israel managing director Nathan Fremkiel said yesterday.

In the first quarter of 1996, new housing starts fell 40 percent and the contractors' supply of apartments was 6,200, compared with an annual demand for apartments of 45,000-50,000.

Commenting on reports that the real estate market is in a state of recession, Fremkiel said the situation prevailing on the market is no more than a slowdown.

He said contractors are left with large stocks of unsold apartments in a recession and significant financial problems, but "today most contractors have relatively

few apartments left for sale."

The last few months' slowdown is mainly due to the mortgage market.

The large withdrawals of funds from the provident funds in recent months and the rise in interest rates have reduced the banks' ability to lend money to contractors and made mortgages unattractive to potential buyers.

To attract potential buyers, many real estate companies are offering potential buyers significant

reductions on the purchase of new apartments.

For example, Shikun Ovdim is offering non-interest bearing mortgages of between \$200,000 and \$250,000 to people that purchase their apartments in North Tel Aviv, Givatayim and Hod Hasharon.

Housing and Development is offering potential buyers a 20-year mortgage at a subsidized interest of 2.95%.

In addition, both companies are prepared to give a 5% discount on its apartments, in all sites.

INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC TENDER - No. 114/96/PT

To Supply, Install and Maintain a Control System for Streetlighting in Jerusalem

The Jerusalem Municipality hereby invites contractors to offer proposals for implementing the above project.

Details and material, including conditions of tender and proposed contract, can be obtained, following appointment by phone, from Mr. Yochanan Disegni of the Engineering Services' Public Lighting Department, 1 Safra Square, 3rd Fl., office no. 407, tel. -297656, from Monday, 9 September 1996. A non-refundable fee of NIS 2,000, will be charged for the tender documents.

Proposals should be sent to the Municipality by registered mail, in a sealed envelope with all details of the tender written on it, and not later than Tuesday, 22 October 1996, to the Municipal Department of Tenders, 1 Safra Square, Jerusalem; or they can be delivered directly to the above address, 2nd Fl., Room 181 on the above-mentioned date (22 October) from 9:00 to 12:00 only.

The Municipality is under no obligation to accept the lowest bid or any other one.

Jacob Efraty
Director General

Information and Public Relations Department

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Meridor urges coalition Finance Committee members to unite behind budget cuts

EVELYN GORDON

COALITION members of the Knesset Finance Committee came out of a meeting with Finance Minister Dan Meridor yesterday with a positive feeling, confident that disputes over the 1997 budget would be resolved and the planned NIS4.9 billion in cuts would pass.

Meridor convened the meeting after the committee refused to okay a hike in water prices for farmers on Thursday. He said he was concerned by several recent committee decisions which thwarted proposed budget-cutting measures, and wanted to impress on the MKs the urgent need to unite behind the proposed 1997 budget.

"Your support of the [1997] budget proposal is of maximal importance to the Israeli economy," he told coalition committee members, adding that NIS4.9b. was the minimal amount that could be cut.

"There is no government without a coalition, and without you, we will not be able to pass the budget."

Most of the meeting, however, was devoted not to a lecture, but to setting up procedures whereby the MKs could resolve their differences with the Treasury. The MKs appeared united afterwards in describing it as a good meeting.

"In the end, it will lead to more communication between MKs and Treasury officials," said committee chairman Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism). "My assessment

is that there won't be a problem with the budget cuts - they will pass."

"I have no doubt that the framework of the budget will be approved, and in the end the budget itself will be approved," agreed Zvi Hendel (National Religious Party).

MKs still have many differences with the Treasury over the specific nature of the cuts, and Meridor reiterated his willingness to consider any alternative proposals they submit. It was also agreed that the MKs will from now on have free access to Treasury officials, so they can try to get answers to their questions, as this has been a problem in the past.

Some of the most vocal opponents of the cuts, such as Meir

Sheerit (Likud), were not present at the meeting. Many of those who were present, however, took a more moderate tone than the coalition has demonstrated in the past.

Pini Badash (Likud), for instance, suggested that the MKs commit themselves to voting according to the will of the majority on all budget issues. The coalition must stop acting like the opposition, he said, since "this just plays into the hands of [head of the opposition in the committee Avraham] 'Beiga' Shohat."

"It's worth forging up a headline or two," he added. "There's time yet until the primaries."

"This budget was approved without any dissent in the cabinet," said Ravitz, adding that while MKs are entitled to raise suggestions, they can't play "more righteous than thou" with the cabinet.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patiah (foreign currency deposit rates) (29.7.96)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	4.825	4.975
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.125
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.750	1.875	2.250
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	1.000	1.125	1.500
Yen (10 million yen)			

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (9.9.96)

Currency basket	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.5081	3.5657	3.06	3.22	3.5442
German mark	3.1218	3.1722	2.08	2.22	3.1550
Pound sterling	2.0821	2.1259	2.06	2.16	2.1125
French franc	4.8718	4.9322	4.78	5.02	4.9198
Japanese yen (100)	0.0129	0.0225	0.80	0.84	0.8184
Dutch florin	2.8837	2.9098	2.81	2.96	2.8538
Swiss franc	1.2856	1.2885	1.22	1.28	1.2857
Swedish krona	2.5685	2.6079	2.52	2.66	2.5929
Norwegian krona	0.4703	0.4960	0.46	0.49	0.4745
Danish krone	0.4871	0.4970	0.47	0.51	0.4821
Finnish mark	0.8454	0.8512	0.82	0.86	0.8482
Canadian dollar	0.8908	0.9202	0.83	0.88	0.8480
Australian dollar	2.2733	2.3100	2.23	2.35	0.9874
S. African rand	2.4957	2.5370	2.45	2.58	2.2982
Belgian franc (10)	0.6937	0.7049	0.62	0.66	0.6932
Portuguese escudo (10)	1.0182	1.0328	0.96	0.71	0.7005
Austrian schilling (10)	2.5723	3.0213	2.92	3.07	1.0254
Italian lira (1000)	2.0546	2.0990	2.02	2.13	3.0036
Jordanian dinar	4.3400	4.5400	4.34	4.54	2.0951
Egyptian pound	0.8900	0.9700	0.88	0.84	4.4830
Irish punt	3.5920	4.0158	—	0.97	0.9832
Spanish peseta (100)	5.0227	5.1342	4.98	5.21	3.8622
	2.4784	2.5194	2.43	2.56	5.1057

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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US dollar	NIS 3.1530	+0.19%
Sterling	NIS 4.9196	+0.25%
Mark	NIS 2.1135	+3.33%

NYSE STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes

DJ Industrial	7438	+14.38
DJ 30	7182	+18.41
DJ 100	7182	+18.41
NYSE Index	453.21	+0.15
NYSE Midcap	319.41	+0.25
NYSE Smallcap	304.54	+0.77
AMEX Comp	307.88	+1.34

Other stock market indexes

FTSE 100	3918.8	+49.7
DAX	2032.2	+18.7
Nikkei	11212.6	+187.1

Israeli stocks in NY

Amir	1.15	+0.15
Amir A	1.15	+0.15
Amir B	1.15	+0.15
Amir C	1.15	+0.15
Amir D	1.15	+0.15
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NYSE/AMEX

Amir	1.15	+0.15
Amir A	1.15	+0.15
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Amir X	1.15	+0.15
Amir Y	1.15	+0.15
Amir Z	1.15	+0.15

US dollar crosses (US)

Amir	1.15	+0.15
Amir A	1.15	+0.15
Amir B	1.15	+0.15
Amir C	1.15	+0.15
Amir D	1.15	+0.15
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Amir W	1.15	+0.15
Amir X	1.15	+0.15
Amir Y	1.15	+0.15
Amir Z	1.15	+0.15

LIBOR rates

3 months	5.75
6 months	5.75
9 months	5.75
12 months	5.75

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

Amir	1.15	+0.15
Amir A	1.15	+0.15
Amir B	1.15	+0.15
Amir C	1.15	+0.15
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Amir X	1.15	+0.15
Amir Y	1.15	+0.15
Amir Z	1.15	+0.15

NYSE COMMODITIES AND METALS

Amir	1.15	+0.15
Amir A	1.15	+0.15
Amir B	1.15	+0.15
Amir C	1.15	+0.15
Amir D	1.15	+0.15
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Amir Z	1.15	+0.15

US commodities

Amir	1.15	+0.15
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Amir B	1.15	+0.15
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Amir W	1.15	+0.15
Amir X	1.15	+0.15
Amir Y	1.15	+0.15
Amir Z	1.15	+0.15

London commodities

Amir	1.15	+0.15
Amir A	1.15	+0.15
Amir B	1.15	+0.15
Amir C	1.15	+0.15
Amir D	1.15	+0.15
Amir E	1.15	+0.15
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Amir W	1.15	+0.15
Amir X	1.15	+0.15
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Amir Z	1.15	+0.15

Spot market metals (US)

Amir	1.15	+0.15
Amir A	1.15	+0.15
Amir B	1.15	+0.15
Amir C	1.15	+0.15
Amir D	1.15	+0.15
Amir E	1.15	+0.15
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Amir L	1.15	+0.15
Amir M	1.15	+0.15
Amir N	1.15	+0.15
Amir O	1.15	+0.15
Amir P	1.15	+0.15
Amir Q	1.15	+0.15
Amir R	1.15	+0.15
Amir S	1.15	+0.15
Amir T	1.15	+0.15
Amir U	1.15	+0.15
Amir V	1.15	+0.15
Amir W	1.15	+0.15
Amir X	1.15	+0.15
Amir Y	1.15	+0.15
Amir Z	1.15	+0.15

New York metal futures

Amir	1.15	+0.15
Amir A	1.15	+0.15
Amir B	1.15	+0.15
Amir C	1.15	+0.15
Amir D	1.15	+0.15
Amir E	1.15	+0.15
Amir F	1.15	+0.15
Amir G	1.15	+0.15
Amir H	1.15	+0.15
Amir I	1.15	+0.15
Amir J	1.15	+0.15
Amir K	1.15	+0.15
Amir L	1.15	+0.15
Amir M	1.15	+0.15
Amir N	1.15	+0.15
Amir O	1.15	+0.15
Amir P	1.15	+0.15
Amir Q	1.15	+0.15
Amir R	1.15	+0.15
Amir S	1.15	+0.15
Amir T	1.15	+0.15
Amir U	1.15	+0.15
Amir V	1.15	+0.15
Amir W	1.15	+0.15
Amir X	1.15	+0.15
Amir Y	1.15	+0.15
Amir Z	1.15	+0.15

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading				Two-sided trading			
Name	Price	Change	Volume	Name	Price	Change	Volume
Amir	1.15	+0.15	100	Amir	1.15	+0.15	100
Amir A	1.15	+0.15	100	Amir A	1.15	+0.15	100
Amir B	1.15	+0.15	100	Amir B	1.15	+0.15	100
Amir C	1.15	+0.15	100	Amir C	1.15	+0.15	100
Amir D	1.15	+0.15	100	Amir D	1.15	+0.15	100
Amir E	1.15	+0.15	100	Amir E	1.15	+0.15	100
Amir F	1.15	+0.15	100	Amir F	1.15	+0.15	100
Amir G	1.15	+0.15	100	Amir G	1.15	+0.15	100
Amir H	1.15	+0.15	100	Amir H	1.15	+0.15	100
Amir I	1.15	+0.15	100	Amir I	1.15	+0.15	100
Amir J	1.15	+0.15	100	Amir J	1.15	+0.15	100
Amir K	1.15	+0.15	100	Amir K	1.15	+0.15	100
Amir L	1.15	+0.15	100	Amir L	1.15	+0.15	100
Amir M	1.15	+0.15	100	Amir M	1.15	+0.15	100
Amir N	1.15	+0.15	100	Amir N	1.15	+0.15	100
Amir O	1.15	+0.15	100	Amir O	1.15	+0.15	100
Amir P	1.15	+0.15	100	Amir P	1.15	+0.15	100
Amir Q	1.15	+0.15	100	Amir Q	1.15	+0.15	100
Amir R	1.15	+0.15	100	Amir R	1.15	+0.15	100
Amir S	1.15	+0.15	100	Amir S	1.15	+0.15	100
Amir T	1.15	+0.15	100	Amir T	1.15	+0.15	100
Amir U	1.15	+0.15	100	Amir U	1.15	+0.15	100
Amir V	1.15	+0.15	100	Amir V	1.15	+0.15	100
Amir W	1.15	+0.15	100	Amir W	1.15	+0.15	100
Amir X	1.15	+0.15	100	Amir X	1.15	+0.15	100
Amir Y	1.15	+0.15	100	Amir Y	1.15	+0.15	100
Amir Z	1.15	+0.15	100	Amir Z	1.15	+0.15	100

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Name	Price	Change	Name	Price	Change	Name	Price	Change	Name	Price	Change
Amir	1.15	+0.15	Amir	1.15	+0.15	Amir	1.15	+0.15	Amir	1.15	+0.15
Amir A	1.15	+0.15	Amir A	1.15	+0.15	Amir A	1.15	+0.15	Amir A	1.15	+0.15
Amir B	1.15	+0.15	Amir B	1.15	+0.15	Amir B	1.15	+0.15	Amir B	1.15	+0.15
Amir C	1.15	+0.15	Amir C	1.15	+0.15	Amir C	1.15	+0.15	Amir C	1.15	+0.15
Amir D	1.15	+0.15	Amir D	1.15	+0.15	Amir D	1.15	+0.15	Amir D	1.15	+0.15
Amir E	1.15	+0.15	Amir E	1.15	+0.15	Amir E	1.15	+0.15	Amir E	1.15	+0.15
Amir F	1.15	+0.15	Amir F	1.15	+0.15	Amir F	1.15	+0.15	Amir F	1.15	+0.15
Amir G	1.15	+0.15	Amir G	1.15	+0.15	Amir G	1.15	+0.15	Amir G	1.15	+0.15
Amir H	1.15	+0.15	Amir H	1.15	+0.15	Amir H	1.15	+0.15	Amir H	1.15	+0.15
Amir I	1.15	+0.15	Amir I	1.15	+0.15	Amir I	1.15	+0.15	Amir I	1.15	+0.15
Amir J	1.15										

Hull leads US past Russia in World Cup semifinal

OTTAWA (Reuter) - Brett Hull of the St. Louis Blues had his second two-goal game of the tournament to help the US advance to the finals of the inaugural World Cup with a 5-2 victory over Russia on Sunday.

Mike Richter of the New York Rangers made 23 saves for the US (4-0), which remained the only unbeaten team in the tournament and will play Canada in the best-of-three finals beginning tonight at Philadelphia.

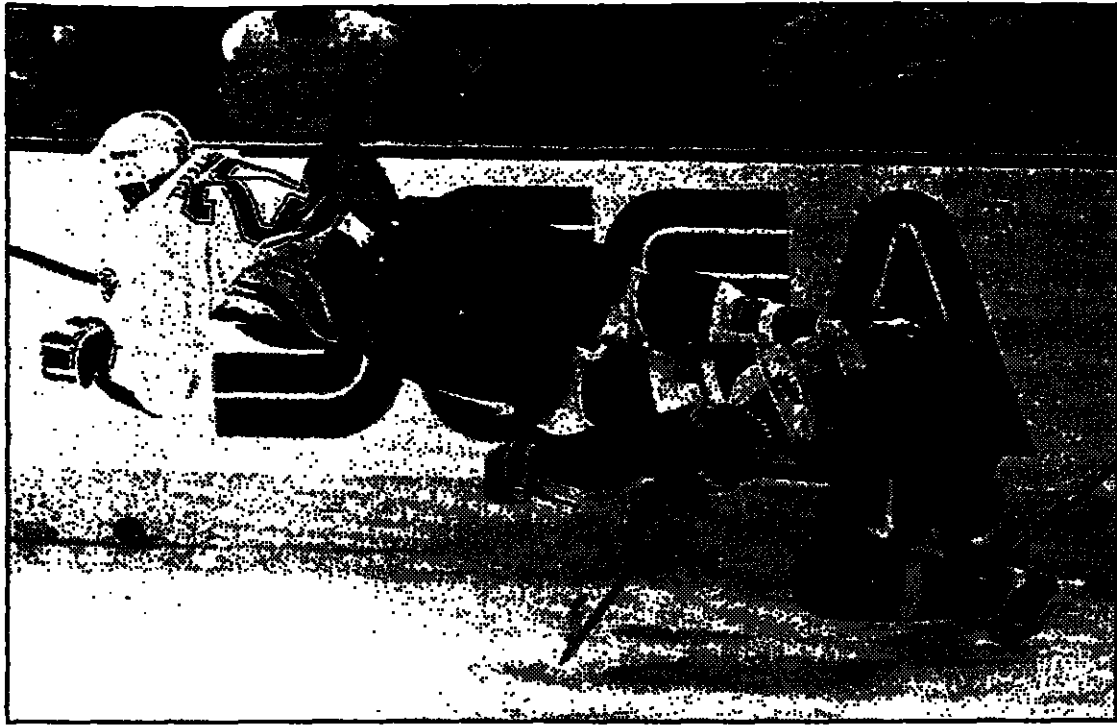
The Americans jumped to a 1-0 lead just 26 seconds into the first period. Pat LaFontaine opened the scoring, putting a shot from the left faceoff circle over goaltender Andrei Trefilov - his Buffalo Sabres teammate - off a 2-on-1 with Joel Otto.

Richter preserved the lead when he got his right skate on a shot by his Rangers teammate Sergei Nemchinov off a brilliant cross-ice feed from Alexander Mogilny.

"Richter saved us in the first period," said US defenseman Mathieu Schneider. "Richter is the best goalie I've ever played with. He stops the puck, he gets up, he stops it again."

Hull's power-play goal with just under 15 seconds left in the period increased the margin to 2-0. Stationed in front of the net, Hull deflected Kevin Hatcher's point shot into Trefilov's chest and backhanded the rebound into an open net.

Russia, which went 2-3 in the tournament, got on the scoreboard at 9:06 of the second period when



CHECKED OUT - United States' Gary Suter is upended by Russia's Sergei Nemchinov in Sunday's World Cup of Ice Hockey action.

Sergei Berezin capped a 3-on-1 by putting a shot off the right post that ricocheted under the crossbar.

The odd-man rush was one of the few executed by the Russians, who were as tentative in this game as they were in their 5-2 preliminary-round loss to the US on September 2 in New York. Tony Amonte of the Chicago Blackhawks restored the US's two-goal lead just 55 seconds later. Bryan Smolinski's shot from

the right circle hit Amonte in front of the net, but he gained possession as he skated right to left across the crease and put it in for his first World Cup tally.

Hull scored his second short-handed goal of the tournament at 14:58 of the second period, whipping a low wristshot through Trefilov's pads from the right circle. The goal came with three seconds left in Mike Modano's high-sticking penalty.

US forward Bill Guerin of the New Jersey Devils expressed optimism at his team's chances against Canada. "We want to show that we're better than Canada," Guerin said. "We don't want to be an emerging power. We want to win. I think it will be an extremely tough series, but I think we can beat them." The US beat Canada 5-3 in round-robin play, on August 31 at Philadelphia.

Bereaved families remember Munich

Low-key ceremony in Tel Aviv marks 24th anniversary for 11 slain Olympians

JONATHAN ARIEL

THE 24th annual memorial service for the 11 Israeli athletes murdered by Black September terrorists at the 1972 Munich Olympic Games took place yesterday at the "Eleven Athletes Square" (Rehavat Ha Yed-Aleph) in Tel Aviv.

The ceremony, held under the auspices of Tel Aviv Municipality and the Israel Olympic Committee, was attended by a small crowd, composed primarily of the bereaved families, sports officials and Shevet Hoshesh of the Tel Aviv Scouts, the event organizer.

Deputy Minister of Education, Culture and Sport

Moshe Peled said that this year's memorial had special significance. It was the first ceremony since the belated recognition of the victims, made by International Olympic President Juan Antonio Samaranch at the recent Atlanta Games.

After years of frustration, the bereaved families were finally recognized, following the loss of life at the Atlanta Centennial Park bombing.

Peled stated that the government and the IOC would continue their unceasing efforts to ensure that the massacre live on in sports history forever as a proverbial day of infamy.

Nimni to Holon, Levy to Beit She'an

ORI LEWIS

JUST a day after the new soccer season claimed its first coaching casualty, the game of musical chairs got under way, with coaches moving from team to team.

Zafirim Holon has taken on the services of Meir Nimni, while Elisha Levy the man who vacated the position at Holon, is on his way back to Beit She'an, the club he coached to promotion to the National League and for their first season in the top division.

Guy Levy, who was Beit She'an's second coach of the since the end of last season - Zion Maril was dismissed after less than a month during the off season - is now the man looking for a club. The former Hapoel Petah Tikva coach quit Beit She'an after just two months in the job.

In other news, the cash payout scandal involving the National Team following its victory over Bulgaria is officially over after IFA Chairman Azrikam Milchan sent letters of rebuke to coach Shlomo Scharf, his assistant Yitzhak Shum, team manager Avraham Bendori and captain Nir Kliger.

Milchan said no action would be taken, but a recurrence of such events would lead to serious disciplinary consequences.

Leeds sacks Wilkinson

LEEDS (Reuter) - Leeds United sacked its manager Howard Wilkinson yesterday two days after the club lost 4-0 at home to champions and big rivals Manchester United.

Wilkinson said: "I am very disappointed and obviously very shocked. My immediate reaction is that I have left a club which has made excellent progress over recent years."

"I hope the measure they have taken will allow the club's fine reputation to continue."

Wilkinson, 52, arrived at Leeds almost eight years ago from Sheffield Wednesday and took the club out of the second division and on to the league title in 1992 with Eric Cantona in the team.

Wilkinson joins Arsenal's Bruce Rioch, Ray Wilkins of Queens Park Rangers and Manchester City's Alan Ball in the list of coaches fired this season.

Last night, Derby beat Blackburn 2-1.

College football's Top 25

How the top 25 teams in The AP's college football poll fared this week:

- No. 1 Nebraska (1-0) beat Michigan State 55-14. Next: at No. 20 Arizona State, Sept. 21.
- No. 2 Tennessee (2-0) beat UCLA 35-20. Next: vs. No. 4 Florida, Sept. 21.
- No. 3 Florida State (1-0) beat Duke 44-7. Next: at North Carolina State, Sept. 21.
- No. 4 Florida (2-0) beat Georgia Southern 62-14. Next: at No. 2 Tennessee, Sept. 21.
- No. 5 Colorado (2-0) beat Colorado State 48-34. Next: vs. No. 12 Michigan, Saturday.
- No. 6 Notre Dame (1-0) beat Vanderbilt 14-7, Thursday. Next: vs. Purdue, Saturday.
- No. 7 Penn State (2-0) beat Louisville 24-7. Next: vs. Northern Illinois, Saturday.
- No. 8 Texas (2-0) beat New Mexico State 41-7. Next: vs. No. 6 Notre Dame, Sept. 21.
- No. 9 Syracuse (0-1) lost to No. 24 North Carolina 27-10. Next: at Minnesota, Sept. 21.
- No. 10 Ohio State (1-0) beat Rice 70-7. Next: vs. Pittsburgh, Sept. 21.
- No. 11 Miami (2-0) beat Citadel 52-6. Next: at Rutgers, Thursday, Sept. 12.
- No. 12 Michigan (1-0) did not play. Next: at No. 5 Colorado, Saturday.
- No. 13 Northwestern (0-1) lost to Wake Forest 28-27. Next: at Duke, Saturday.
- No. 14 Alabama (2-0) beat Southern Mississippi 20-10. Next: vs. Vanderbilt, Saturday.
- No. 15 Virginia Tech (1-0) beat Akron 21-18. Next: at Boston College, Saturday.
- No. 16 Brigham Young (2-0) did not play. Next: at Washington, Saturday.
- No. 17 LSU (1-0) beat Houston 35-34. Next: at No. 18 Auburn, Sept. 21.
- No. 18 Auburn (2-0) beat Fresno State 62-0. Next: at Mississippi, Saturday.
- No. 19 Southern Cal (1-1) beat Illinois 55-3. Next: vs. Oregon State, Saturday.
- No. 20 Arizona State (1-0) beat Washington 45-42. Next: North Texas, Saturday.
- No. 21 Kansas State (2-0) beat Indiana State 59-3. Next: vs. Cincinnati, Saturday.
- No. 22 Iowa (1-0) beat Arizona 21-20. Next: vs. Iowa State, Saturday.
- No. 23 Virginia (1-0) beat Central Michigan 55-21. Next: vs. Maryland, Saturday.
- No. 24 North Carolina (2-0) beat No. 9 Syracuse 27-10. Next: vs. Georgia Tech, Sept. 21.
- No. 25 Texas A&M (0-1) did not play. Next: SW Louisiana, Saturday.

Abbott snaps losing streak; Yankees' lead cut to 3 games

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) - Jack Howell started a triple play and hit a tie-breaking home run, helping Jim Abbott snap a personal 11-game losing streak as the California Angels beat the Minnesota Twins 4-2 Sunday.

Abbott (2-15), who hadn't won since May 2 at Oakland, was making his first start since being recalled from the minor leagues following the first demotion of his career.

The left-hander pitched six innings, allowing two runs on eight hits, striking out three and walking none. Troy Percival pitched a perfect eighth and ninth for his 34th save.

Howell started the around-the-horn triple play in the sixth inning on Ron Coomer's hard grounder to third. It was the Angels' first triple play since July 23, 1977 - also against the Twins.

After the triple play, Howell homered on the first pitch of the seventh inning by Frank Rodriguez (13-12). It was Howell's eighth home run of the year and put the Angels ahead 3-2.

Blue Jays 4, Yankees 2
Ed Sprague hit two home runs off 20-game winner Andy Pettitte, accounting for all of visiting Toronto's runs.

The Yankees' lead in the AL East was cut to three games - their smallest edge since June 24.

Sprague hit a three-run homer in the fourth off Pettitte (20-8) after hitting a solo shot in the second.

Erik Hanson (12-16) allowed two runs on eight hits in 6 1/2 innings for the victory.

Ortola 6, Tigers 2
Rafael Palmeiro and Bobby Bonilla hit successive homers in the bottom of the eighth inning and Chris Hoiles added a two-run shot.

It was the 10th time this season the Orioles had a chance to move 10 games over .500 - and the first time they made it.

Todd Zeile started Baltimore's comeback in the eighth with a

walk off Joey Eischen (1-1). Palmeiro then hit an 0-1 pitch over the right-field scoreboard for his 34th homer and a 3-2 lead.

Jose Lima relieved and Bonilla hit the right-hander's first pitch into the center-field seats, his 26th home run of the season and seventh in 10 games. Four batters later, Hoiles hit 25th.

The Orioles have 231 homers this season, nine short of the major league record.

Alan Mills (2-1) got the victory with two innings in relief of rookie Rocky Coppinger, who struck out a career-high 11 in seven innings.

White Sox 7, Red Sox 4
Robin Ventura homered, singled and drove in two runs as host Chicago maintained its one-game lead in the AL wild-card race.

The White Sox have won eight of their last 10 games. They next face Baltimore, the team right behind them, in a three-game series beginning tonight at Camden Yards.

James Baldwin (11-4) scattered nine hits in seven-plus innings for only his second win in six weeks. Roberto Hernandez worked the ninth for his 37th save.

Rangers 7, Brewers 1
Bobby Witt pitched a five-hitter and Darryl Hamilton, Mickey Tettleton and Juan Gonzalez homered as Texas won on the road.

Witt (15-9) struck out five and walked two to win for the eighth time in his last nine decisions. He didn't allow a runner to reach second base after the third inning and retired 18 of the final 21 batters in his second complete game of the year.

Indians 2, Mariners 1 (1st)
Mariners 6, Indians 5 (2nd)
Joey Cora scored on Jim Thome's bases-loaded error in the top of the ninth inning as Seattle beat Cleveland to salvage a doubleheader split.

In the first game, Thome got his 100th RBI on a go-ahead double

won on the road. Navarro (15-9) allowed one earned run in six innings. He has not lost since July 16 at Pittsburgh and is 9-1 since the All-Star break.

Michael Mims (2-8) gave up four runs and six hits in 4 1/2 innings.

Servais had a sacrifice fly in the second and an RBI grounder in the fourth for a 2-0 lead. He also doubled home a run in the eighth.

Padres 5, Cardinals 4
Fernando Valenzuela cooled off the NL Central-leading Cardinals, ending their eight-game winning streak by pitching San Diego to a road win.

Valenzuela (13-7) won his eighth straight decision and Wally Joyner hit a three-run homer as the Padres stopped St. Louis' longest winning string since 1987.

Reds 8, Giants 3
Barry Larkin and Eddie Taubensee homered in a five-run eighth inning that carried host Cincinnati over slumping San

Francisco. Cincinnati blew a 3-1 lead in the top of the eighth as Jeff Shaw (7-5) gave up a two-run infield single to Rick Wilkins. But Larkin hit his 27th homer off Jose Bautista (3-4) with one out in the bottom of the inning to put the Reds ahead and start a nine-batter rally.

The Reds have moved into third place and stayed in contention in the NL Central by winning seven of their last nine games. The defending division champions, now only four games back, have seven games left with first-place St. Louis.

Rockies 5, Astros 2
Dante Bichetti's double highlighted a three-run top of the ninth inning for Colorado.

The Rockies won for the only the fourth time in their last 17 road games. The loss kept Houston 1 1/2 games behind St. Louis in the NL Central.

Pirates 4, Dodgers 1
Orlando Merced cleared the

bat with a three-run pinch-double in the top of the ninth inning.

The loss, coupled with San Diego's victory at Houston, erased the Dodgers' one-game lead in the NL West.

Nelson Liriano greeted reliever Darren Dreifort (1-3) with a lead-off single in the ninth. Liriano was safe at second when catcher Mike Piazza fielded Carlos Garcia's bunt and threw late to second on an attempted force.

Both runners advanced on a sacrifice by Trey Beamon before an intentional walk to Jason Kendall loaded the bases.

Marlins 2, Expos 1
Gary Sheffield hit his 41st home run and Rick Helling pitched seven strong innings in his first NL start to lead Florida to a home win.

Florida trailed 1-0 when Sheffield homered following Edgar Renteria's single in the fifth inning against Pedro Martinez (12-10). Sheffield moved into a tie with Colorado's Andres Galarraga for the NL lead in home runs.

Helling (1-0) spent most of this season at Triple-A Oklahoma City and was acquired Tuesday to complete a trade with Texas that sent John Burkett to the Rangers.

Helling had a career-high nine strikeouts while allowing four hits, no walks and one run. He retired 12 in a row at one point.

WILD CARD RACE
American League

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	78	66	.542	-
Baltimore	76	66	.535	1
Seattle	73	68	.518	3 1/2
Boston	73	70	.510	4 1/2
Minnesota	72	71	.503	5 1/2

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	78	64	.549	-
San Diego	79	65	.549	-
Montreal	78	64	.549	-
Houston	78	68	.528	3
Cincinnati	73	70	.510	5 1/2
Colorado	72	71	.503	6 1/2
Chicago	71	71	.500	7

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	78	64	.549	-
San Diego	79	65	.549	-
Montreal	78	64	.549	-
Houston	78	68	.528	3
Cincinnati	73	70	.510	5 1/2
Colorado	72	71	.503	6 1/2
Chicago	71	71	.500	7

SUNDAY'S NL RESULTS:
Baltimore 6, Detroit 2
Chicago 7, Boston 4
California 4, Minnesota 2
Toronto 4, New York 2
Texas 7, Milwaukee 1
Oakland 8, Kansas City 7 (10)
Cleveland 2, Seattle 1 (1st)
Seattle 6, Cleveland 5 (2nd)

SUNDAY'S AL RESULTS:
Baltimore 6, Detroit 2
Chicago 7, Boston 4
California 4, Minnesota 2
Toronto 4, New York 2
Texas 7, Milwaukee 1
Oakland 8, Kansas City 7 (10)
Cleveland 2, Seattle 1 (1st)
Seattle 6, Cleveland 5 (2nd)

SUNDAY'S NL RESULTS:
New York 6, Atlanta 2
Chicago 5, Philadelphia 3
San Diego 5, St. Louis 4
Cincinnati 8, San Francisco 3
Colorado 5, Houston 2
Cubs 5, Phillies 3
Pittsburgh 4, Los Angeles 1
Florida 2, Montreal 1

Jaime Navarro won his eighth straight decision and Scott Servais drove in three runs as Chicago

Haifa trips triumphant in bowls tourney

NORMAN SPIRO

THE Haifa trio of Yossi Greenberg, Yair Lieberthal and Zvi Friedman won the national bowls' triples championships, beating Jerusalem's Boaz Marcus, David Llewellyn and Steven Imchink 16-15 over the weekend at the Savoyon Bowls Club.

The women's trips was won by Maureen Hirschowitz, Merle Swerdlow and Isobel Myers. The threesome scored a 29-11 win over Ramat Hasharon's Ros Israelstam, Paula Kaplan and Lorraine Couzin.

Next month, England's gold medal bowlers will visit, led by world singles gold medalist Tony Alcock. Alcock will meet Israeli singles title holder Jeff Rabkin.

Joseph Hoffman Sports Editor

Geelong's season finished following 60-point loss to North Melbourne

MELBOURNE (AP) - North Melbourne steamrolled Geelong by 60 points Sunday in the first round of the Australian Football League playoffs at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

The Australian Rules football loss ends Geelong's season while North Melbourne now has a week off before moving into the semifinals on the weekend of September 21-22.

In other weekend playoff matches, the Sydney Swans eliminated Hawthorn 13.12 (90) to 12.12 (84), West Coast Eagles downed Carlton 18.17 (125) to 10.10 (70) and the Brisbane Bears edged Essendon 15.11 (101) to 15.10 (100).

The Eagles will play Essendon next Saturday in one elimination match at Melbourne, while the Bears play Carlton in Brisbane in the other.

Sydney will also get next weekend off and will play host to a semifinal in two weeks.

Daryn Cresswell took the mark of his life to score the winning goal for Sydney in its quarter-final against Hawthorn. Cresswell grabbed a long kick from Paul Roos at the edge of the goal square and goaled with less than a minute to go.

It was the Swans' second consecutive win without full-forward Tony Lockett, whose injuries again kept him out.

The Eagles needed only the first 21 minutes to dismantle the Blues, booting the first five goals of the game to set up their 55-point victory.

On Friday, Essendon star Gavin Wanganeen hit the post with 10 seconds remaining for a single-point behind to allow Brisbane its one-point win before a record crowd of 22,003 at The Gabba in Brisbane.

The Bears led by 27 points at the 13-minute mark of the final quarter before the Bombers charged with four goals in seven minutes from the 15-minute mark to produce the close finish.

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Olmert won't suspend himself

BILL HUTMAN and Itim

JERUSALEM Mayor Ehud Olmert will not suspend himself as mayor or MK, despite calls that he do so, his spokesman Hagai Elias said yesterday.

"There is no justification for the mayor to suspend himself," Elias said. He declined to comment further. Olmert also declined to speak about the matter of his pending indictment.

Eliezer Gottlieb, chairman of the directorate of Amitai - Citizens for Good Government, yesterday sent a letter to Olmert urging him to immediately suspend himself, following Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair's decision to indict him.

According to Amitai, the position of mayor of Jerusalem is a senior post of an official nature,

which is why Olmert must suspend himself until the completion of legal proceedings against him.

Gottlieb told Olmert in the letter that if he remains in office, Amitai would have to launch a campaign to force him to suspend himself. Amitai officials also said they would consider petitioning the High Court of Justice on the matter.

Ben-Yair told the government Sunday that he would ask the Knesset Speaker to remove Olmert's immunity in order to indict him on charges which stem from his alleged role in arranging for contributors to the Likud's 1988 campaign to get phony receipts for contributions which they could use for tax purposes.

Olmert not obligated to resign as mayor

BACKGROUND
EVELYN GORDON

JERUSALEM Mayor Ehud Olmert was barred from serving as a minister by the pending indictment against him. Under existing precedent, however, the indictment does not oblige him to resign as mayor.

The law requires mayors to resign only if convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude. While the High Court of Justice could, in theory, judicially legislate a more stringent standard - as it did in the case of ministers and deputy ministers - it has so far not done so. In 1993, it even explicitly refused to do so, in a petition against Herzliya Mayor Eli Landau.

Several other mayors indicted on charges as serious as those against Olmert have continued to serve out their terms in recent years. Former Eilat mayor Rafi Hochman, for instance, continued to serve despite his indictment on charges of fraud and bribe-taking, and Landau continued to serve despite his indictment for fraud and breach of trust in connection with the Herzliya marina project.

The allegations against the two - who were both later acquitted - were in one way even more serious than those against Olmert, since their crimes were allegedly committed while they were serving as mayor. Olmert's alleged crimes were committed five years before his election.

Hochman's trial finished shortly before the seminal 1993 High Court decision which ordered inte-

rior minister Aryeh Deri and deputy communications minister Raphael Pinhasi to resign because of the indictments against them. Later that year, however, Amitai - Citizens for Good Government tried to make use of the Deri precedent to force Landau, whose trial was still pending, to resign, and the High Court rejected the group's petition.

The main reason for the difference in the court's treatment of ministers and mayors seems to be the fact that mayors are elected. The public has no say at all in who becomes a minister, as ministers are appointed by the prime minister with the Knesset's approval, and even less in who becomes a deputy minister, since they do not even need Knesset approval. For the government to appoint a suspected criminal to high office, the High Court ruled, would undermine the public's faith in government and the rule of law.

Mayors, however, are directly elected by the public. If a majority of the public thinks a suspected criminal is the best choice for mayor, that is its prerogative. Landau, for instance, was re-elected three months after Amitai filed its petition against his continued tenure, and the upcoming municipal elections were a major factor in the court's decision. In a case where the public can act for itself, the court said, there is no need for it to act as guardian of the public morality.

Lau said that, since the establishment of the state, there has been no serious effort to give content to the "Jewish state" decreed in the Proclamation of Independence.

He said the character of the country has been determined by the status quo: In a neighborhood in which a movie theater was open on Shabbat in the days of the British Mandate, that theater continued to operate on Shabbat; in neighborhoods in which there was no entertainment on Shabbat, that continued as well.

Lau calls for civil-halachic 'special' court

ASHKENAZI Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau has called for a serious national discussion of the Jewish nature of the state and the status quo on religious affairs.

At a press conference at the Jerusalem offices of the Chief Rabbinate yesterday, he also called for the establishment of a "special" court, similar to the High Court of Justice, which would be composed jointly of judges and rabbis and would deal with civil-halachic issues, such as closing Jerusalem's Rehov Barlan on Shabbat or artificial insemination involving frozen ova.

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Clowns distribute balloons to guests at yesterday's opening of the new \$30 million Mother and Child Center of Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem. The long-planned facility has nearly 100 beds, set aside for all the hospital's pediatric patients, as well as pregnant women and new mothers. The child-friendly, four-story building boasts a large atrium with a glass-walled elevator, sculptures of children, and neon lights in the form of animals. Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, Hadassah president Marlene Post, Hadassah Medical Organization director-general Prof. Shmuel Penchas, and senior staffers attended the opening. (Text: Judy Siegel; Photo: Avi Hayom)

Court admits testimony taken in England for Deri trial

JERUSALEM District Court decided yesterday to admit the protocol of the testimony taken in England from prosecution witness Martin Brown into evidence in the trial of Shas leader Aryeh Deri.

Brown, a Jewish millionaire who resides in England, gave testimony on the alleged bribes involving Deri and Moshe Weinberg. The prosecution claims that Weinberg paid for Deri's trips to London as bribes. While

the two were in London, they were hosted by Brown.

Brown refused to come to Israel to appear before the court. During his testimony, he was declared a hostile witness by the prosecution.

The defense opposed the admission of Brown's testimony, arguing that it was not admissible since it did not meet the requirement of allowing the defense to conduct cross-examination.

The judges rejected the defense objections, however, saying that Brown purposely avoided coming to Israel for the trial. Therefore, there was justification in getting him to testify abroad, they said.

However, the judges said that if necessary, they would consider how to weigh Brown's evidence when preparing their ruling.

Deri and Weinberg are on trial for fraud, bribery and breach of trust. (Itim)

Netanyahu, Gore to help Conference of Presidents mark 40th anniversary

BACKGROUND
MARILYN HENRY/NEW YORK

LED by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and US Vice President Al Gore, political and business elites will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations tomorrow.

The conference remains the central address in American Jewish life, but its fortunes have flagged over the last few years.

Used to a role as an intermediary between Jerusalem and Washington, the conference had been largely sidelined by Yitzhak Rabin and Bill Clinton. That is expected to change under Netanyahu.

"Clearly there are strong ties between the Prime Minister's Office and the conference, and Netanyahu's government will need the involvement of the conference more than the prior government," said Seymour Reich, head of the American Zionist Movement and a former conference chairman.

The conference dates from

1955, when leaders of perhaps 10 American Jewish organizations began meeting in what was known as "the presidents' club."

According to one popular anecdote, John Foster Dulles, then secretary of state, told Nahum Goldmann, a preeminent American Jewish leader: "First this group comes to my door for a briefing. Then the next group. Can't you all meet together so I only have to give this briefing once?"

The conference is an unwieldy umbrella, and the demands of building a consensus among its 54 organizations have made it slow to respond, and its responses were often tepid.

In the key political issue of the last few years, the peace process, the conference was buffeted on the right by the vigorous lobbying of the Zionist Organization of America. On the left, an ad hoc group, including some of the conference's major members, got the Labor government's nod to take up the Oslo banner.

The Presidents Conference will have Netanyahu, Gore, and Republican vice presidential candidate Jack Kemp tomorrow night at a gala dinner at the New York Hilton, with 1,000 guests paying \$1,000 a plate. But the conference is not the only Jewish organization that can draw the luminaries.

Clinton and then foreign minister Shimon Peres showed up last year at an exclusive birthday bash for Edgar Bronfman that raised millions of dollars for his World Jewish Congress.

Bronfman was once said to be Jerusalem's choice to head the conference. These days, the speculation is that publisher-mogul Mortimer Zuckerman will replace Leon Levy as chairman

next summer.

Zuckerman, who publishes the *New York Daily News* and *US News & World Report*, is head of the America-Israel Friendship League, which most American Jews have never heard of.

Zuckerman would add the panache and power that the conference craves, but his ascension gnaws at some who say that he has not paid his dues in the trenches. Several members of the conference, however, pooh-poohed the idea that Zuckerman would be buying the position. They expressed greater concern that Zuckerman would face potential conflicts between the consensus of the Jewish community and the editorial stand of his publications.

Although the conference is expected to have warmer relations with Netanyahu than it did with Rabin, it still is expected to encounter difficulties in reaching a consensus on its positions.

'Mauerbach Treasure' slated for auction

ELDAD BECK
VIENNA

THE "Mauerbach Treasure," an important collection of some 900 works of art confiscated during World War II by the Nazis mainly from Austrian Jewish families, will be auctioned off here at the end of October.

The works, which have not been reclaimed by survivors of the Holocaust or their descendants, will be sold to benefit both Jewish and non-Jewish victims of the Nazis and their families, living in and outside Austria.

The sale will be conducted by Christie's on a non-profit basis on behalf of the Federation of Austrian Jewish Communities, to which the Austrian authorities transferred

ownership of the treasure in 1995.

The sale is expected to raise more than \$3.5 million. Twelve percent will be transferred to non-Jewish organizations of Nazi victims; the rest to Jewish organizations.

Austrian officials said that if any of the objects are identified by a claimant before the auction, it will be given back to the owner.

The works have been stored for more than four decades in a 14th-century monastery in Mauerbach. Since the end of the war, over

10,000 objects have been identified and returned to their original owners or surviving family members.

Predominating among the 874 lots to be sold is an extensive collection of old master paintings and drawings, including works by Breughel, Cortese, and Tiepolo. The majority of the painting section comprises an extensive selection of 19th-century works, including several by Rudolf von Alt, Carl Christian, Friedrich von Amerling and Ludwig Knaus.

The Mauerbach Treasure also includes carpets, tapestries, furniture, arms and armor, coins, and rare books.

WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. Slightly warmer inland.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	
Argentina	68	88	18 61
Bahia	68	88	18 61
Buenos Aires	68	88	18 61
Bahia	68	88	18 61
Chicago	68	88	18 61
Copenhagen	68	88	18 61
Geneva	68	88	18 61
Helsinki	68	88	18 61
Hong Kong	68	88	18 61
London	68	88	18 61
Los Angeles	68	88	18 61
Madrid	68	88	18 61
Moscow	68	88	18 61
New York	68	88	18 61
Rome	68	88	18 61
Sydney	68	88	18 61
Tokyo	68	88	18 61
Warsaw	68	88	18 61
Zurich	68	88	18 61

Winning Cards

IN yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance draw, the winning cards were the jack of spades, nine of hearts, ace of diamonds, and jack of clubs.

Britain to release report on fate of Nazi gold

LONDON (Reuters) - Britain will today release a 23-page official report on the fate of Nazi gold, which was hidden in Swiss bank vaults after the end of World War II.

A spokesman for the Foreign Office said the report will be accompanied by a reply from Foreign Secretary Michael Ruffin to member of parliament Greville Janner whose pressure forced the government to undertake an inquiry.

"The memorandum basically sets out the current availability and sources which relate to information from British archives on Nazi gold," the spokesman said. It would be up to Janner to decide whether to release the contents of the reply, he said. Documents declassified by the United States national archives in May show that after the capitulation the Swiss were left holding German gold, much believed to have been stolen from Jews and estimated to be worth \$2.5 billion at today's prices.

The United States, Britain and France believed that a majority, and possibly all of it, was looted.

A letter from the Swiss legation in Washington in 1946 suggests the three Allies agreed to a secret deal over the gold which effectively divided the cash raised by any sale of the gold among all four countries.

Janner, a member of parliament for the main opposition Labor Party, wrote in June to Ruffin and the Defense Secretary Michael Portillo, asking whether British intelligence had any documents about this secret deal.

Ruffin wrote back that "none of the intelligence services is aware of having such information." But he subsequently agreed to set up an inquiry into the claims.

The documents are among thousands from the files of "Operation Safehaven," a US intelligence effort just after the war that tried to find out how Germany used Switzerland, Sweden and other neutral countries to hide its assets.

Janner, a leading member of the Jewish community, was unavailable for comment. He was reported in weekend newspapers as saying that Britain knew a lot about the fate of Nazi gold.

"I believe there will be no cover-up and that we have a moral obligation to hand back what is not ours, and what was stolen," he told the *Independent* on Sunday.

"We must accept it does not, never did, belong to Britain."

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